

## WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004

QA:N/A

## INTRODUCTION

Water-resources data published herein for the 2004 water year comprise the following records:

Water discharge for 182 gaging stations on streams, canals, and drains.

Discharge data for 95 partial record stations and miscellaneous sites, and 16 springs.

Stage and contents for 21 ponds, lakes and reservoirs.

Water levels for 19 continuous observation wells, and 889 periodic observation wells.

Water-quality data for 114 stream, canal, spring and drain sites and 138 wells.

Precipitation totals for 39 stations.

Water withdrawals for 11 wells.

Additional water data, collected at various sites that are not part of the systematic data-collection program, are published as miscellaneous measurements. These data represent that part of the National Water Data System operated by the U.S. Geological Survey and cooperating State and Federal agencies in Nevada.

Records of stream discharge and content or stage of lakes and reservoirs were first published in a series of U.S. Geological Survey water-supply papers entitled "Surface Water Supply of the United States." Through water year 1960, these water-supply papers were in an annual series; for 1961-70, they were in a 5-year series. Records of water quality were published from 1941 to 1970 in an annual series of water-supply papers entitled "Quality of Surface Waters of the United States." Records of ground-water levels were published through 1974 in a series of water-supply papers entitled "Ground-Water Levels in the United States." Water-Supply Papers may be consulted at the libraries of principal cities in the United States, or, if not out of print, they may be purchased from the U.S. Geological Survey, Information Services, Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225-0046.

For water years 1961 through 1974, streamflow data were released by the Geological Survey in annual reports on a state-by-state basis. Water-quality records for water years 1964 through 1974 were similarly released, either in separate reports or in conjunction with the streamflow records.

Beginning with the 1975 water year, surface-water, ground-water, and water-quality data have been published annually as official Geological Survey reports on a state basis. These reports carry an identification number consisting of the two-letter state abbreviation, the last two digits of the water year, and the volume number. For example, this volume is identified as "U.S. Geological Survey Water Data Report NV-01-1." For archiving and general distribution, the reports for water years 1971-74 are identified also as official water-data reports. The water-data reports are for sale, in paper copy or in microfiche, by the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. For further ordering information, the Customer Inquiries telephone number is (703) 487-4650, between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm EST.

The computer age has led to the dissemination of information quickly and easily through the Internet, the worldwide computer network. Hydrologic information from the USGS is available on the World Wide Web (WWW). Included are water-related activities, information contacts, publications, and various other items that may be of interest to the general public, local State and other Federal agencies, and universities.

The USGS Nevada Water Science Center has a web page for disseminating such information. The page can be accessed using the WWW address: <http://nevada.usgs.gov/>

## **WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**

### **COOPERATION**

The U.S. Geological Survey and organizations of the State of Nevada have had cooperative agreements for the systematic collection of streamflow records since 1909, and for water-quality records since 1951. Organizations that assisted in collecting data or funding through cooperative agreement with the Survey during 2004 are:

#### **NEVADA STATE AGENCIES**

Bureau of Mines and Geology  
CA Department of Water Resources  
Dayton Valley Conservation District  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Environmental Protection  
Division of Water Resources  
UNR Agricultural Station

#### **INDIAN TRIBES**

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
Duck Valley Reservation Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe  
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe  
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe  
Walker River Paiute Tribe

#### **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES**

Department of Energy	Fish & Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation	Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management	National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Corps of Engineers	U.S. Board of Water
Environmental Protection Agency	Commissioners
Fallon Naval Air Station	U.S. District Court Watermaster
Federal Emergency	U.S. Air Force
Management Agency	

#### **REGIONAL AGENCIES, CITIES, COUNTIES**

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	Elko County
Carson City	Las Vegas Valley Water District
Carson Water Subconservancy	Lahontan Water-Quality Control
District	Board
Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy	Pershing County Water Conservation
District	District
Clark County Flood Control	Southern Nevada Water Authority
Authority	Storey County
Clark County Sanitation District	Truckee Carson Irrigation District
City of Henderson	Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Churchill County	Truckee Meadows Water
Desert Research Institute	Reclamation Facility
El Dorado County (CA)	Walker River Irrigation District
	Washoe County

Organizations that supplied data are acknowledged in station descriptions.

**WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**  
**SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS**

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**Surface Water**

Nevada has no truly large rivers. The largest streams in the State are the Humboldt, Truckee, Carson, Walker, Muddy, Virgin, and Colorado Rivers. The Colorado River, which is by far the largest, forms the boundary between southeastern Nevada and northwestern Arizona. Of the remaining listed rivers, only the Humboldt and Muddy begin and terminate in Nevada.

The larger rivers typically follow the flow pattern of a gaining stream in the well-watered mountain reaches and a losing stream in the lower-altitude reaches. Most of Nevada is typified by basin-and-range topography, and most Nevada rivers have no direct connection with the ocean. Downstream depletion of flow is caused by irrigation, public use, infiltration, and evapotranspiration. Characteristically, stream discharge is low in late summer, and then increases through the autumn and winter until the snowmelt season in the spring. Maximum discharge for the year normally can be expected in May and June, although floods have occurred from November through March as a result of rain or rain on snow.

Much of Nevada is drained by small streams that are dry most of the year. Typically, such streams respond only to intense precipitation, which generally occurs only a few times a year at the most. In many years, the streams have no flow, and even in relatively wet years, total flow duration in such streams can be measured in hours.

Streams and rivers in Nevada drainages for water year 2004, were generally below normal runoff and ranged from around 40 percent to about 65 percent depending on the particular area, elevation of the drainage and water usage in the system. Runoff this year on streams with little or no control was earlier than the typical seasonal runoff, with the peaks generally occurring in mid March.

The Humboldt River begins in northeastern Nevada and terminates in northwestern Nevada. For water year 2004, the discharge at Palisade (station 10322500) was 51 percent of the 97-year mean. Monthly and annual mean discharges for water year 2004 and for the period of record (water years 1903-06, 1912-2004) at the Palisade station are shown in figure 1. Rye Patch Reservoir (station 10334500), the last impoundment on the Humboldt River, at its highest level was 16 percent of full capacity in April, to a low of 4 percent the end of September.

The Truckee River is a major western Nevada stream for which discharge is largely controlled by reservoirs and regulated lakes in the Sierra Nevada of California and Nevada. The Truckee River begins at Lake Tahoe (station 10337000) which is regulated above its natural rim (6,223 feet above NGVD of 1929). Lake Tahoe during water year 2004, dropped below its rim September 17, with the water surface ranging between 6,224.30 early June, to 6,222.84 feet, September 30. The 2004 discharge at Reno (station 10348000) was 60 percent of the 77-year mean (water years 1907-21, 1926, 1931-34, 1947-2004). The river terminates in Pyramid Lake (station 10336500), a closed-basin water body which is a saline remnant of Pleistocene Lake Lahontan. Water-surface elevations, in figure 2, illustrate a decline from 1975 through 1981, an increase during 1982-84, which raised the lake level by 25 feet, a steady decline from 1986 through 1994 with slight increases from 1995-1999. Since 1999 the lake has continued to decline. The lake-surface elevation declined 3.0 feet from 3,809.4 in September 2003 to 3,806.4 feet above NGVD of 1929 the end of September 2004.

The Carson River is formed in Carson Valley by the confluence of the East Fork and West Fork Carson Rivers, with headwaters in the Sierra Nevada of California. The 2004 discharge at Carson City (station 10311000) was 51 percent of the 65-year mean. Monthly and annual mean discharges for water year 2004 and for the period of record (water years 1940-2004) at the Carson City station are shown in figure 1. Lahontan Reservoir (station 10312100), the major impoundment on the Carson River, at its highest level was 79 percent of full capacity early June, and a low of 26 percent November 11.

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The Walker River is formed in Mason Valley by the confluence of the East and West Walker Rivers; both rivers originate in the Sierra Nevada of California. The East Walker River discharge is controlled by Bridgeport Reservoir and the West Walker River by Topaz Lake. The 2004 discharge of the Walker River at Wabuska (station 10301500) was 28 percent of the 79-year mean (water years 1904, 1921-35, 1940-41, 1943, 1945-2004). The river terminates in Walker Lake (station 10288500) north of Hawthorne, which is also a saline remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan similar to Pyramid Lake. Water-surface elevations for the lake are shown in figure 2 and illustrate a steady decline from 1969 through 1981 like that of Pyramid Lake. In contrast, the high discharges in the Walker River from 1982 through 1984 raised the lake level by about 14 feet. Lake levels have steadily declined since 1986 until May 1995, and increased slightly through 1999. Since 1999 the lake has continued to decline. The lake-surface elevation decreased 4.0 feet during the 2004 water year, from 3,939.2 the end of September 2003 to 3,935.2 feet above NGVD of 1929 the end of September 2004.

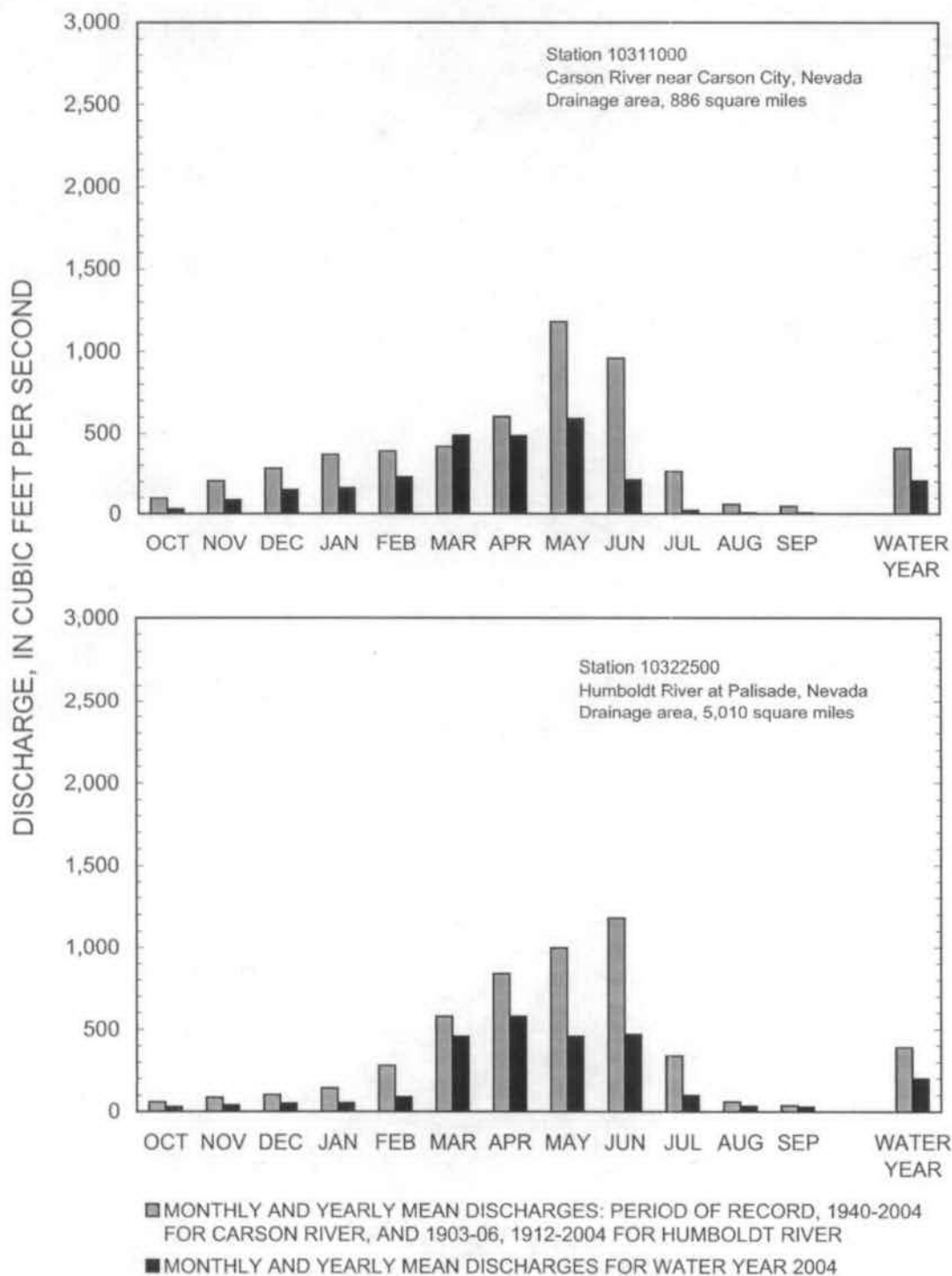
The Colorado River in southeastern Nevada is completely controlled by a series of impoundments that includes Hoover Dam (station 09421000) and Davis Dam (station 09422500) in Nevada. Since 1935, the mean annual discharge of the river below Hoover Dam (station 09421500) is 13,950 cubic feet per second. Mean annual discharge fluctuates on the basis of upstream supply and downstream hydroelectric-power and irrigation requirements. The 2004 mean annual discharge of the Colorado River below Hoover Dam was 95 percent of the 70-year mean (water years 1935-2004).

The Virgin River is one of the major tributaries to Lake Mead on the Colorado River and has most of its drainage area in Utah and Arizona. The discharge at Littlefield, Arizona (station 09415000), was 48 percent of the 75-year mean (water years 1930-2004).

The Muddy River is another tributary to Lake Mead. The discharge at Glendale (station 09419000) was 76 percent of the 53-year mean (water years 1951-1983, 1985-2004).

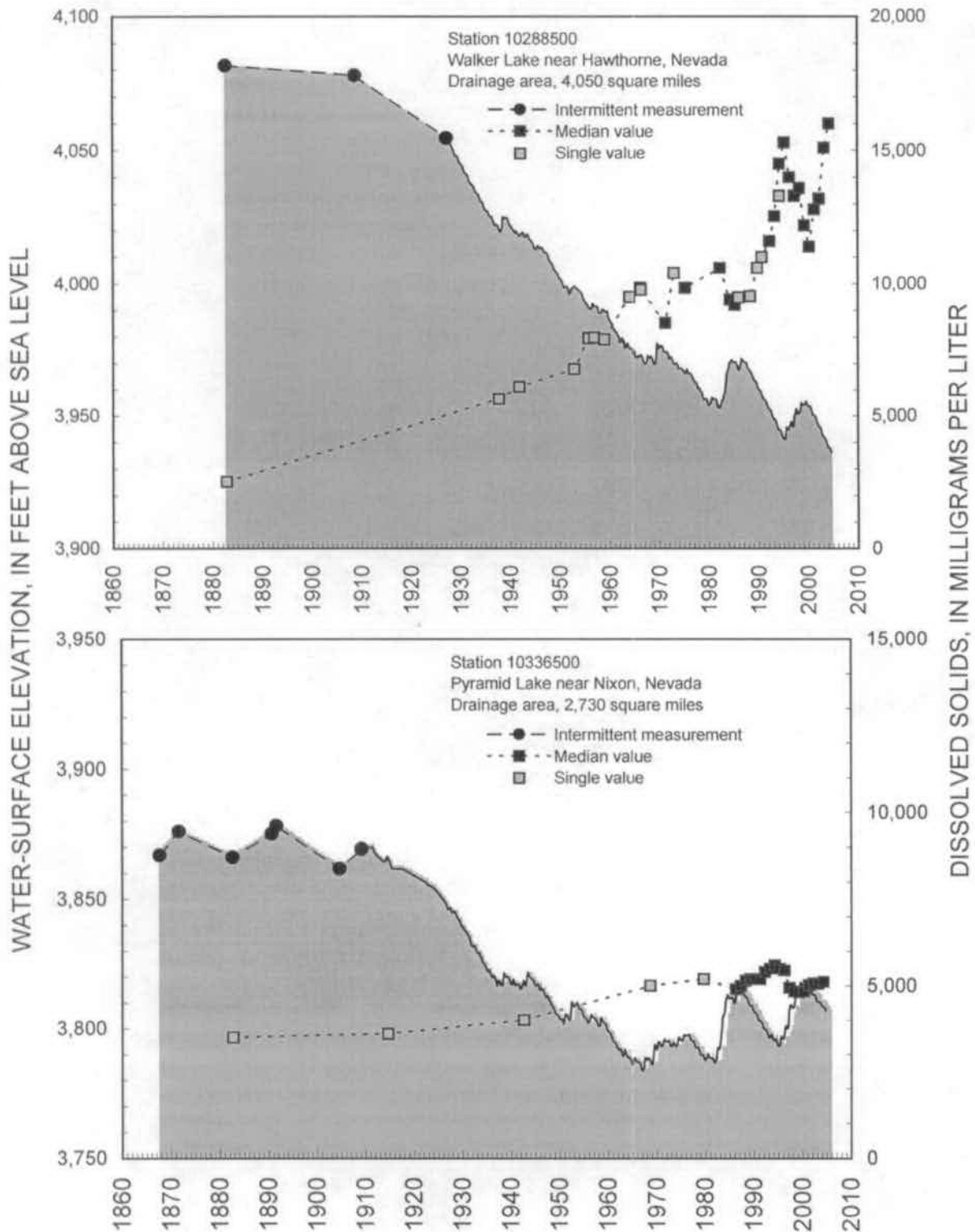
Lake Mead, since its most recent high elevation in December 1997 of 1214.64 feet, has now dropped 88.78 feet at the end of September, to an elevation of 1125.86 feet.

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**Figure 1.** Comparison of discharge during water year 2004 with the long-term mean discharge at two representative gaging stations.

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**Figure 2.** Water-surface elevation and dissolved solids concentration at Walker and Pyramid Lakes (data from Desert Research Institute, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Pyramid Lake Fisheries, and U.S. Geological Survey).

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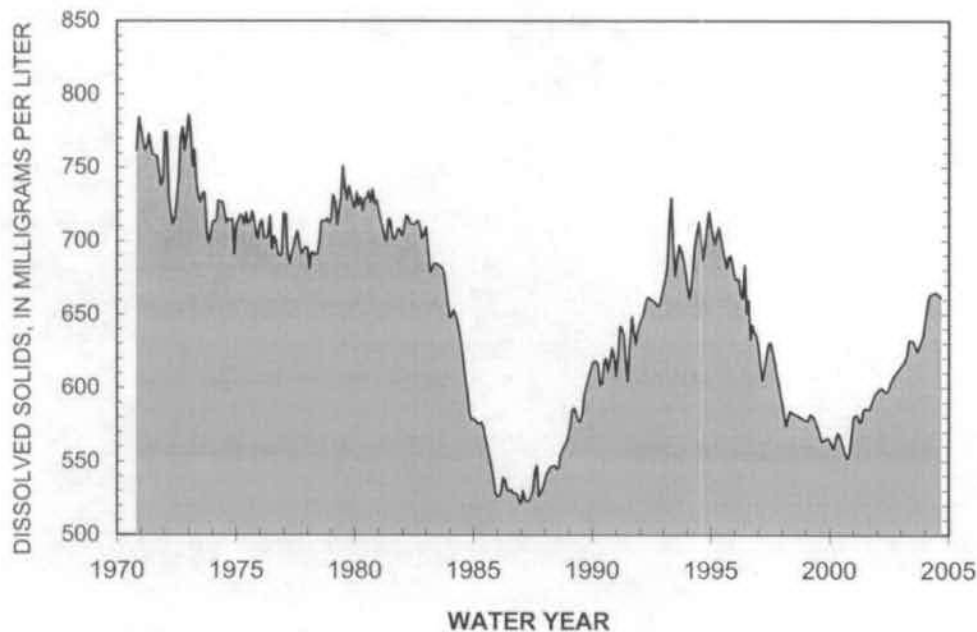
### Water Quality

The quality of surface water in Nevada varies greatly from place to place, as well as seasonally. Concentrations of dissolved solids generally are higher in the southern part of the state than in the northern part, and are dependent to a large extent upon water discharge. Concentrations usually are greatest during periods of low streamflow, and lowest during periods of high streamflow due to dilution by precipitation or snowmelt.

At two southern Nevada stations, Virgin River at Littlefield (station 09415000) and Colorado River below Hoover Dam (station 09421500), mean dissolved-solids concentrations for period of record were 1,990 mg/L and 691 mg/L, respectively. Mean dissolved-solids concentrations in the 2004 water year were 2,310 mg/L and 656 mg/L, respectively. Mean dissolved-solids concentrations in the 2004 water year were 116 and 95 percent, respectively, of the means for the period of record. For the Virgin River at Littlefield station, the mean discharge for the 2004 water year was 113 ft<sup>3</sup>/s and 236 ft<sup>3</sup>/s for the period of record. For the Colorado River below Hoover Dam station, the mean discharge for the 2004 water year was 13,270 ft<sup>3</sup>/s and 13,950 ft<sup>3</sup>/s for the period of record. Figure 3 shows the dissolved-solids concentrations measured at the Colorado River station since the 1971 water year. The downward trend in concentration during 1983-85 and again in 1997-2000 probably was the result of dilution by consecutive years of greater than average inflow to Lake Mead. During 1988-96 and 2001-2004, in contrast, the concentration increased, presumably because the amount of runoff from the upper basin was less than the long-term mean.

The quality of ground water in Nevada also varies greatly because of the various soil and rock types found in the state. Concentrations of dissolved solids generally are higher in the southern part of the state (latitude less than or equal to 38°00'00") than in the northern part (latitude greater than 38°00'00"), similarly to what occurs in surface water. Concentrations in the southern part of the state ranged from 5 to 102,000 mg/L with an average of 1,800 mg/L and a median of 596 mg/L. Concentrations in the northern part of the state ranged from 10 to 94,700 mg/L with an average of 1,310 mg/L and a median of 266 mg/L.

Ground water samples were collected from 80 wells in water year 2004. The constituents analyzed were nutrients, common ions, trace constituents, and organic substances. EPA's drinking water standards for nitrate (10 mg/L), fluoride (4.0 mg/L), and arsenic (0.01 mg/L in 2004 water year) were exceeded in 2 wells, 16 wells, and 3 wells, respectively.



**Figure 3.** Dissolved-solids concentration in the Colorado River below Hoover Dam (station 09421500) for water years 1971-2004.

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### Ground Water

Development of ground-water supplies in Nevada continued during water year 2004 with 2,920 Well Driller's Reports (well logs) submitted to the State Engineer's office. During 2004, 2,112 new wells were drilled and 808 existing wells were reworked or abandoned. The number of new wells drilled during water years 1971-2004 are shown on figure 4. New wells are grouped into 4 categories of proposed water use; domestic, irrigation, public supply and industrial, and other (which includes all other proposed uses). Half of the new wells were drilled for domestic use (figure 5). Most of the new wells represented in the other category were wells used for monitoring. The other category also includes wells drilled for artificial recharge, dewatering, livestock, and mining (figure 5).

Well drilling was concentrated in the northwestern and southern parts of the State. Drilling in extreme northern Nevada was mainly for domestic use near the communities of Elko and Winnemucca and mainly mining and monitoring use in areas between Elko and Winnemucca. Drilling in northwestern Nevada was concentrated in and around the Reno-Lake Tahoe areas; particularly near the communities of Minden-Gardnerville, Fallon, Fernley, and Reno. Drilling in southern Nevada was concentrated in and around the Las Vegas area and near the community of Pahrump. While monitor drilling was predominant in Las Vegas, domestic drilling was predominant in the outlying communities.

Nevada is almost entirely within the Great Basin Region of the Basin and Range physiographic province. The region is characterized by mountain ranges with a general north-south orientation separated by basins (valleys) that are filled by accumulations of unconsolidated to partly consolidated sedimentary deposits and underlain by consolidated rocks that also form the surrounding ranges (Stewart, 1980). Most wells have been drilled into unconsolidated basin-fill deposits. Some consolidated rocks yield substantial quantities of water, particularly in parts of eastern and southern Nevada where ground water flows through thick accumulations of limestone and dolomite. Locally, some fractured volcanic rocks also yield substantial quantities of water. Water wells, however, are not commonly drilled into consolidated rocks, because the well yields are less predictable and most present-day development is in basins where water is readily obtained from shallow depths in unconsolidated deposits.

The depths of the wells drilled in 2004 are shown in figure 6. Domestic wells were most commonly drilled to depths between 125 and 250 feet below land surface. Wells drilled for irrigation use were most commonly drilled to depths between 250 and 625 feet. Public supply and industrial wells were most commonly drilled to depths between 375 to 500 feet and greater than 1,000 ft. Wells in the other category, primarily test holes, were most commonly drilled to depths between 0 and 125 feet.

Ground-water levels fluctuate seasonally and annually in response to changes in withdrawals and climatic conditions. These fluctuations can cause changes in natural recharge to and discharge from the ground-water reservoirs. Water levels generally rise from late winter to early summer, in response to (1) runoff from melting snow in the surrounding mountain ranges, particularly in the northern part of the State and (2) application of surface water for irrigation. Water levels generally decline from summer to early winter, when recharge is small and ground water is discharged by evapotranspiration, irrigation, and domestic use. Long-term climatic changes also can affect water-level trends, but the effects occur over a period of years. Superimposed on the natural fluctuations in water levels are changes caused by increasing or decreasing ground-water withdrawals.

Water-level trends for six selected observation wells are shown in figure 7. The well in Paradise Valley is close to a stream used for irrigation. The well in Eagle Valley taps aquifers used for public supply. The well in Pahrump Valley is in a basin undergoing transition from irrigation to domestic use. The well in Diamond Valley is in an area of intensive irrigation. The well in Steptoe Valley is in a relatively undeveloped basin. The well in Las Vegas Valley taps aquifers used for public supply.



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The well in Paradise Valley is in the northwestern part of the basin. Water levels may fluctuate primarily in response to variations in nearby surface-water streamflow. The well probably does not reflect responses to ground-water withdrawals for agricultural irrigation in the central to southern parts of the basin.

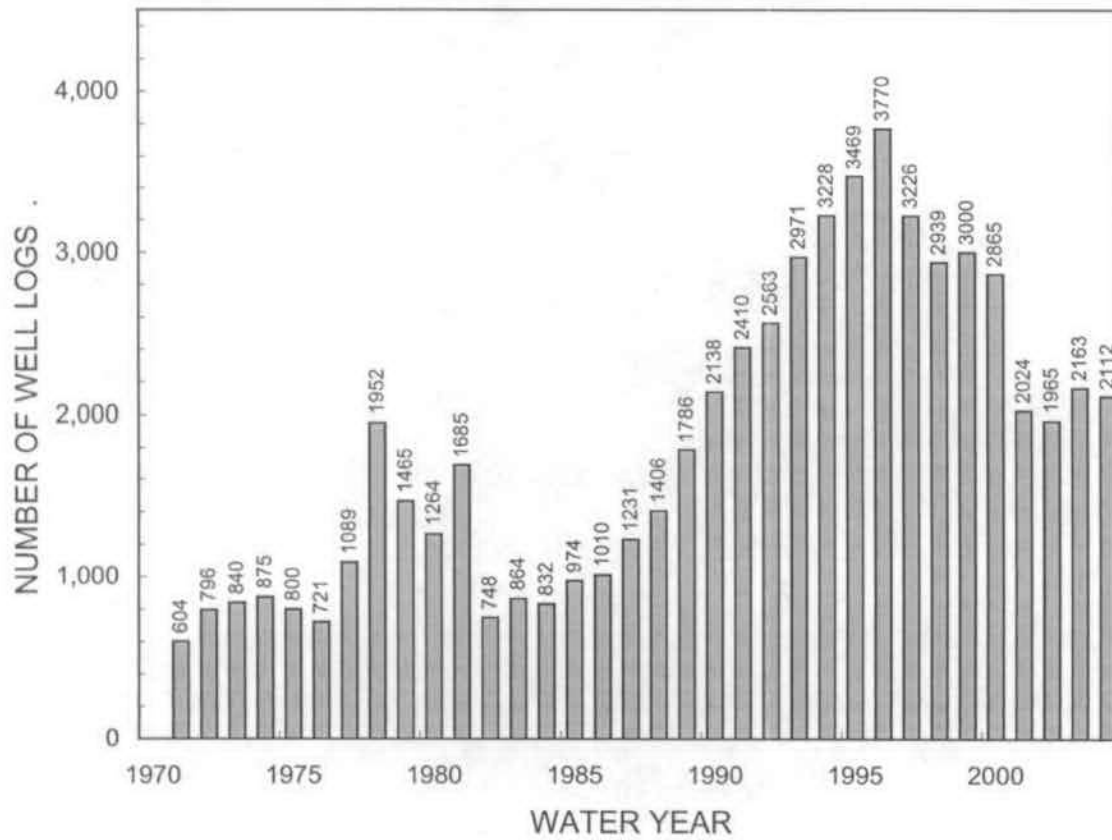
The well in Eagle Valley is in the northern part of the basin north of Carson City. Water levels in the new Eagle Valley well may reflect responses to ground-water withdrawals for municipal use.

The well in Pahrump Valley is in the west-central part of the basin. Ground-water use has changed from historically agricultural to residential because Pahrump has become a bedroom community for Las Vegas. Water levels may reflect this transition.

The well in Diamond Valley is in the southern part of the basin in a farming area. Water levels may reflect responses to ground-water withdrawals for agricultural irrigation.

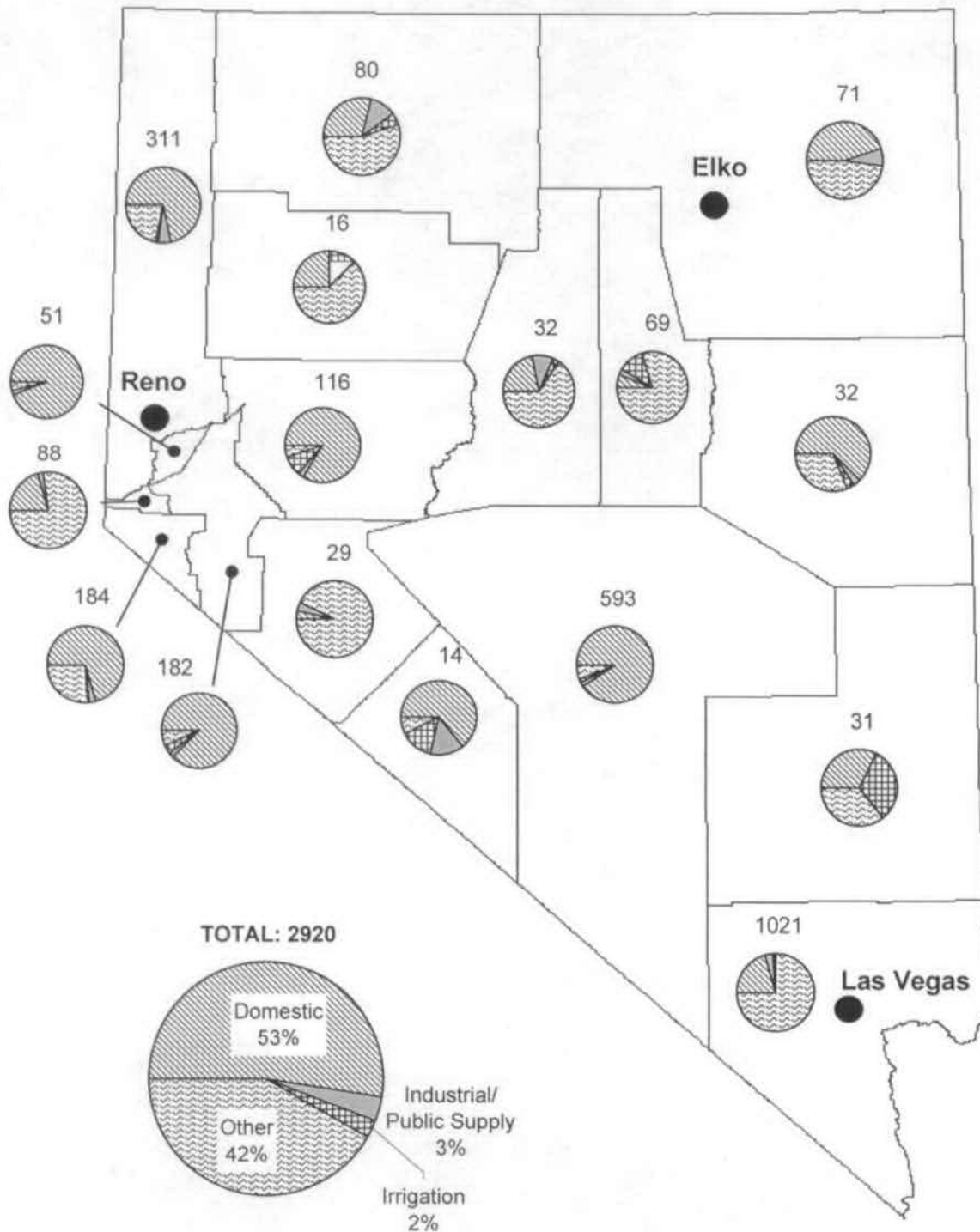
The well in Steptoe Valley is in the central part of the basin. Water levels may respond primarily to fluctuations in climatic conditions.

The well in Las Vegas Valley is in the northwestern part of the basin northwest of Las Vegas. Las Vegas has undergone a tremendous population increase and surface-water imports from Lake Mead have exceeded ground-water withdrawals since 1975. Water levels may reflect responses to ground-water withdrawals for municipal and commercial use.



**Figure 4.** Number of new wells drilled based on number submitted to the Nevada State Engineer's Office during water years 1971-2004.

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**Figure 5.** Distribution, by county, of the number of wells drilled during water year 2003, on the basis of 2,920 logs submitted to the Nevada State Engineer's office. The category 'other' includes mostly exploration wells.

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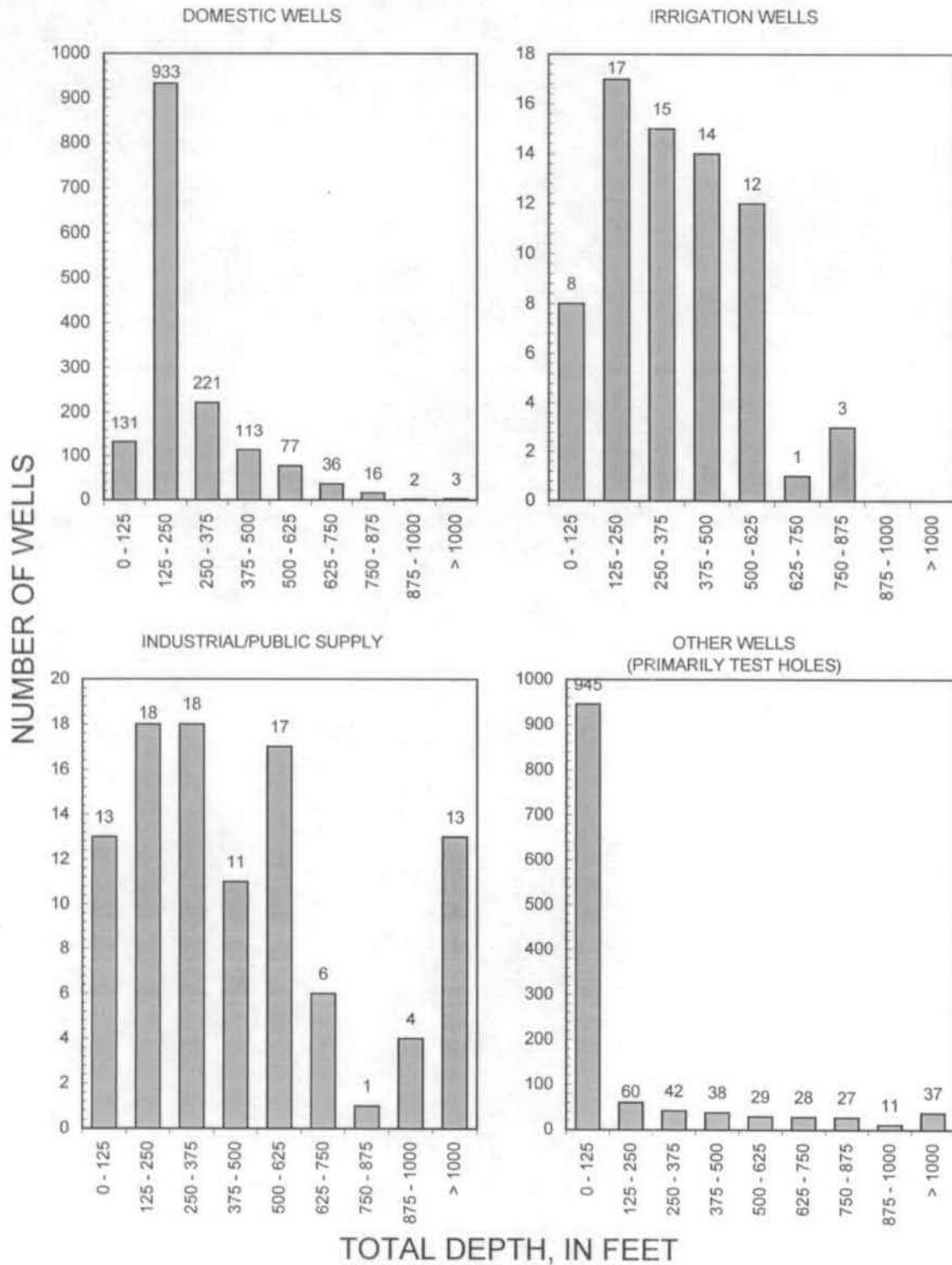
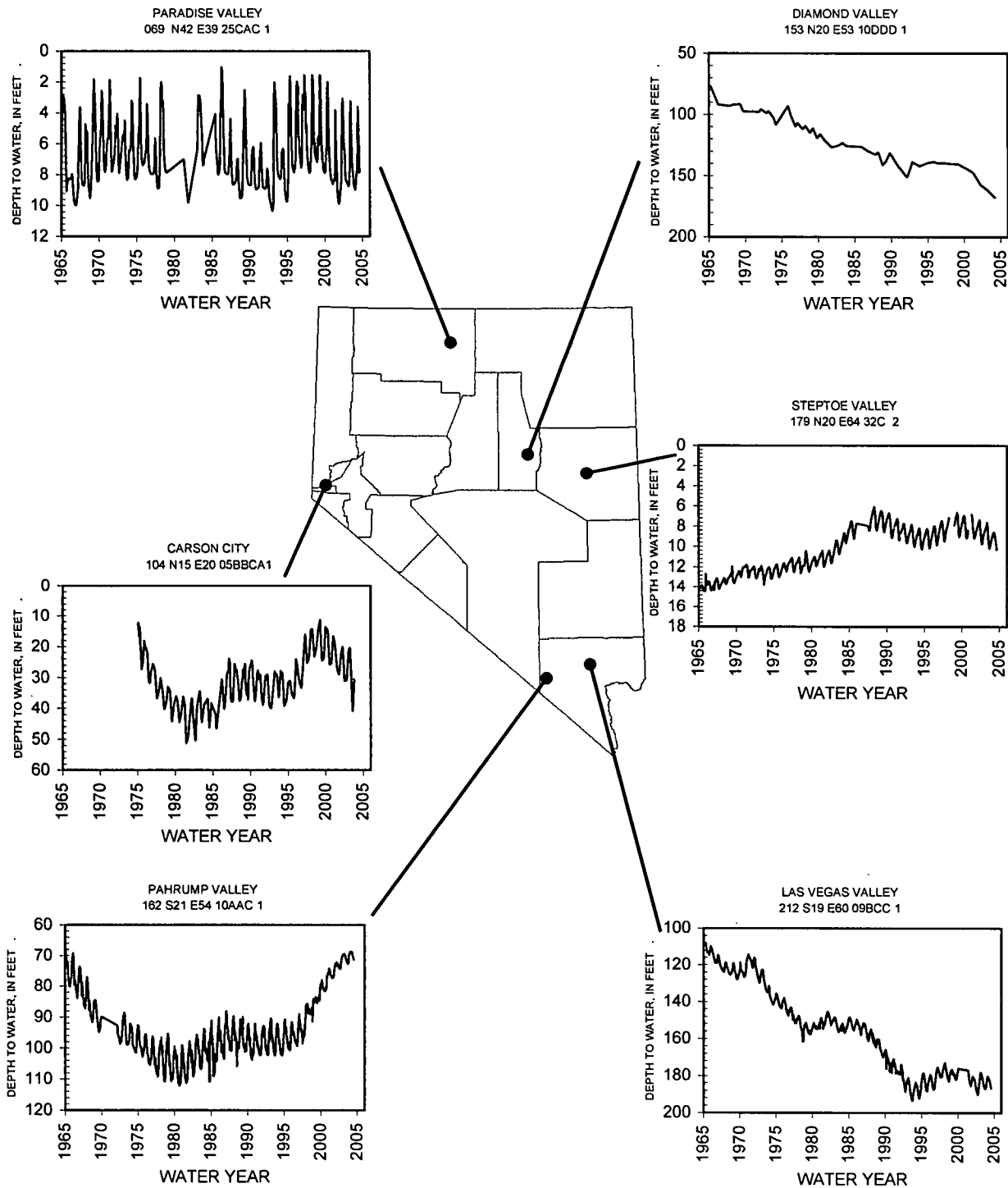


Fig 6. Depths of wells drilled during water year 2003 for domestic, irrigation, industrial and other uses. The category 'other' does not include test holes drilled for geothermal exploration.

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**Figure 7.** Long-term water-level depths below land surface in six selected observation wells.

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### Water Use

Statewide, Nevada's annual precipitation averages about 9 inches--the lowest of any State in the Nation. Spatially, average precipitation ranges from 4 inches in some low-altitude valleys to about 16 inches in higher areas; in the higher mountains, precipitation exceeds 30 inches.

Water year 2004 (October 1, 2003-September 30, 2004) was a below normal year for precipitation for northern Nevada and near or above normal in southern Nevada. Precipitation at six selected sites in Nevada during water year 2004, as reported by the National Weather Service, ranged from 57 percent to 108 percent of the average value. The following table summarizes the data.

Weather station	Precipitation			
	Water year 2004 (inches)	Average, water years 1970-2000	Water year 2004	
			Departure from average (inches)	Percent of average
Elko	10.15	9.78	0.37	104
Ely	5.81	9.98	-4.17	58
Las Vegas	4.93	4.56	0.37	108
Reno	5.96	7.52	-1.56	79
Tonopah	3.24	5.71	-2.47	57
Winnemucca	5.56	8.38	-2.82	66

In a normal year, surface water is the source for about 60 percent of Nevada's water withdrawals. Some surface water right holders also have supplemental ground water rights, which can be used when surface water is not available for their use.

Public supply is a rapidly growing use of water in the State and currently ranks second behind irrigation. The rate of increase in public-supply withdrawals nearly parallels the rapid growth in the State's population. Since 1986, Nevada has been the nation's fastest growing state (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004a). In July 2004, Nevada's population was estimated to be 2,410,768 people (Nevada State Demographer, 2005). From April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004, Nevada's population increased 20.6 percent (Nevada State Demographer, 2005). For U.S. cities with over 100,000 people, North Las Vegas and Henderson were the second and third fastest-growing cities from 2000 to 2003 growing 25.1 and 22.5 percent, respectively (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004b).

In 2004, about 88 percent of Nevadans lived in urban areas having populations of 2,500 people or more (Nevada State Demographer, 2005). The three largest population centers in the State are the Las Vegas, Reno, and Carson City areas which makeup about 82 percent of the State's population (Nevada State Demographer, 2005). The primary source of public-supply water for Las Vegas and Reno is surface water; for Carson City, it is ground water. In 2004, these three areas continue to account for about 80 percent of all the water withdrawn (acre-feet per month) by public-supply utilities in the State. In 1974, the Las Vegas area (which encompasses the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, and Nellis Air Force Base) surface- and ground-water withdrawals were about equal. By 2004, Lake Mead (Colorado River) was the source for nearly 90 percent of the area's public-supply withdrawals (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005a). The Las Vegas area is dependent on the Colorado River to meet its public-supply water needs. About 59 percent of the water used in Las Vegas is for residential use, 14 percent for commercial/industrial, golf courses about 8 percent, and about 7 percent is used by resorts (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005b). Of the total residential use, about 70 percent is used for outdoor landscaping (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005c).

Since January 2000, the water level of Lake Mead has dropped over 80 feet (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005e) and because of this drop, the Las Vegas area went from a drought watch to a drought alert in 2004, which caused additional water use restrictions to go into effect (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005e). The water-use restrictions taken in the Las Vegas area were: No outside watering permitted from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., limits on the amount of turf, and rebates given for reducing the amount of turf (Las Vegas Valley Water District, 2005). Clark County now requires all new golf courses and nearby landscape areas to utilize reclaimed wastewater. Some communities in the area prohibit man-made lakes and have placed restrictions

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on the size of outside decorative water displays at resort hotels. Restrictions have been placed on the percentage of turf that can be used at commercial, industrial, and multifamily developments.

Another measure instituted by Southern Nevada Water Authority is a program called Water Smart Landscapes where the homeowner is paid \$1 for every square foot of lawn they convert to xeriscape (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005d). From January 2003 through March 2004, 3.4 million square feet of sod had been removed and converted to xeriscape under this program (Las Vegas Sun, 2005a). Because of the compliance with drought restrictions, the Las Vegas area is continuing a 2-year trend of declining water use. Water use declined more than 15 billion gallons from 2002 to 2003, despite the fact that there were more than 60,000 new residents in 2003 (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005e).

Two additional means to acquire or reuse water in the Las Vegas area has been to look at modifying the amount of water Nevada can use from the Colorado River system and artificial recharge. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton signed the Quantification Settlement Agreement at Hoover Dam October 16, 2003. The agreement provides Nevada with an opportunity over the next 15 years to access additional water from the Colorado River if water levels allow for surplus use. This agreement may provide additional water that may be available in coming years while southern Nevada develops other water resources (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2004f). Artificial recharge is another method the Las Vegas area is using to help provide water to the Las Vegas area during peak demand. From 1987 through 2004, about 289,000 acre-feet of treated Colorado River water has been injected into the Las Vegas Valley groundwater basin (Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2005f). This artificial recharge could also help stabilize declining ground-water levels.

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) is 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas. From 1950 until the ban on nuclear weapons testing in 1992, the NTS was the primary continental site for the testing of nuclear weapons. Ground water is the source of all water used at the NTS. With the ceasing of weapons testing and the related decline in personnel, water withdrawals have declined nearly 80 percent since 1989 (figure 8). Monthly pumpage from the 14 production wells on the NTS in 2004 is shown in figure 9.

In the Reno area (which encompasses the cities of Reno and Sparks), the Truckee River supplies most of the community's public-supply water. During years of high or surplus flows in Truckee River, the principal water purveyor follows a conjunctive use agreement to reduce its groundwater withdrawals, thus allowing groundwater storage to increase. About 68 percent of the water used in the Reno area is for residential use, 22 percent for commercial, and about 7 percent for irrigation (Truckee Meadows Water Authority, 2005a). Conservation measures enforced in the Reno area limit outside watering to twice a week with no watering between 1 and 5 p.m.; washing down hard surfaces is prohibited; and decorative water displays are turned off (Truckee Meadows Water Authority, 2005b).

In the Carson City area, ground water supplies most of the community's public-supply water. However, the amount of water that Carson City gets from surface water sources is increasing. City ordinance limits outside watering to every other day from June through September, with no watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. This is done to help reduce peak demand and not to limit water use. Wasting water and washing driveways is also prohibited. Despite these measures, levels in water tanks in some areas of the city dipped below 20 percent of capacity and in two areas were below 10 percent on June 28 (Nevada Appeal, 2004a). To boost water levels city officials enacted emergency water restrictions prohibiting outdoor watering from June 28 through June 30 (Nevada Appeal, 2004b).

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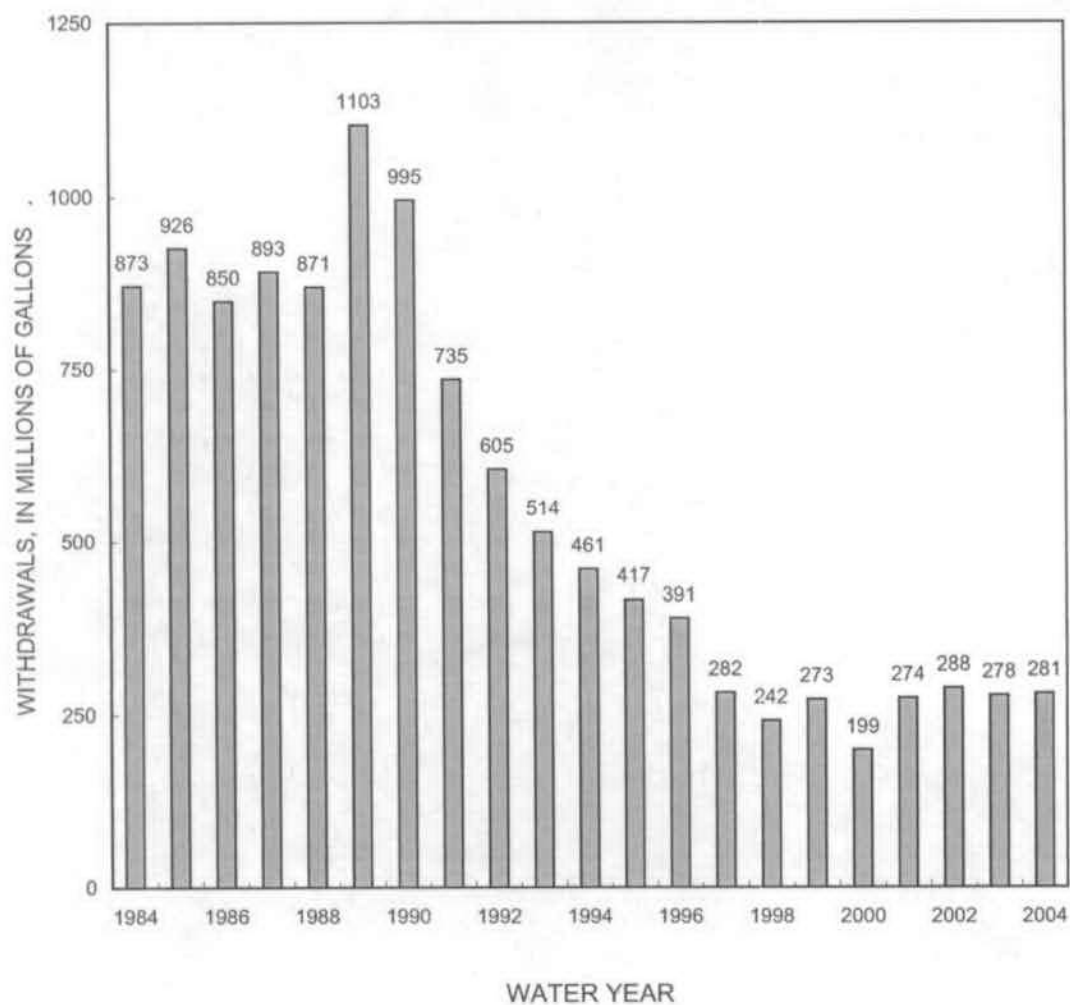
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# WATER RESOURCES - NEVADA, 2004



**Figure 8.** Total ground-water withdrawals from wells at the Nevada Test Site during water years 1984-2004.

# WATER RESOURCES - NEVADA, 2004

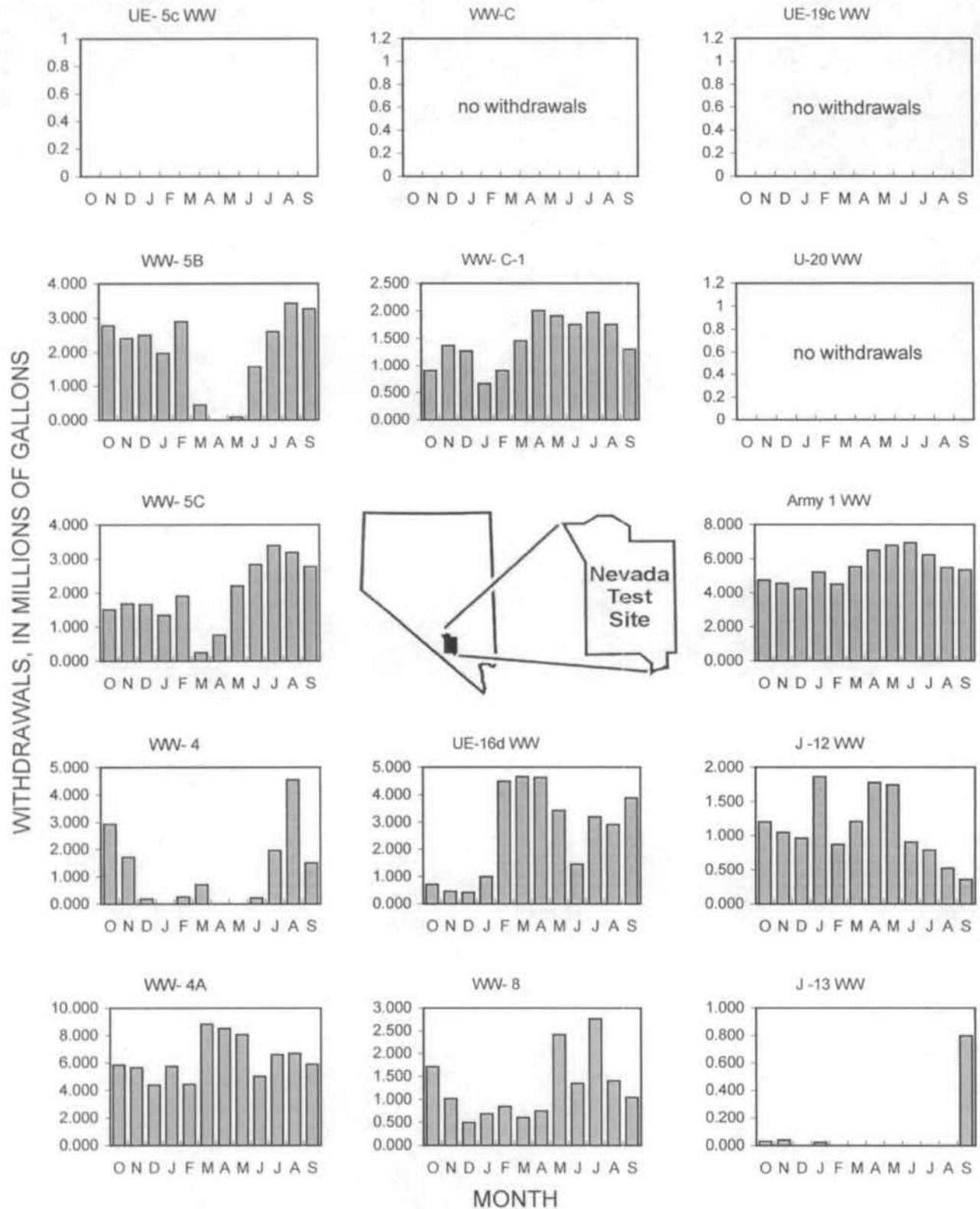


Figure 9. Total ground-water withdrawals from production wells at the Nevada Test Site during water year 2004.

## DOWNSTREAM ORDER AND STATION NUMBER

Since October 1, 1950, hydrologic-station records in USGS reports have been listed in order of downstream direction along the main stream. All stations on a tributary entering upstream from a main-stream station are listed before that station. A station on a tributary entering between two main-stream stations is listed between those stations. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. The rank of any tributary on which a station is located with respect to the stream to which it is immediately tributary is indicated by an indentation in that list of stations in the front of this report. Each indentation represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indentation indicates which stations are on tributaries between any two stations and the rank of the tributary on which each station is located.

As an added means of identification, each hydrologic station and partial-record station has been assigned a station number. These station numbers are in the same downstream order used in this report. In assigning a station number, no distinction is made between partial-record stations and other stations; therefore, the station number for a partial-record station indicates downstream-order position in a list composed of both types of stations. Gaps are consecutive. The complete 8-digit (or 10-digit) number for each station such as 09004100, which appears just to the left of the station name, includes a 2-digit part number "09" plus the 6-digit (or 8-digit) downstream order number "004100." In areas of high station density, an additional two digits may be added to the station identification number to yield a 10-digit number. The stations are numbered in downstream order as described above between stations of consecutive 8-digit numbers.

## NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR WELLS AND MISCELLANEOUS SITES

The USGS well and miscellaneous site-numbering system is based on the grid system of latitude and longitude. The system provides the geographic location of the well or miscellaneous site and a unique number for each site. The number consists of 15 digits. The first 6 digits denote the degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude, and the next 7 digits denote degrees, minutes, and seconds of longitude; the last 2 digits are a sequential number for wells within a 1-second grid. In the event that the latitude-longitude coordinates for a well and miscellaneous site are the same, a sequential number such as "01," "02," and so forth, would be assigned as one would for wells. The 8-digit, downstream order station numbers are not assigned to wells and miscellaneous sites where only random water-quality samples or discharge measurements are taken.

Local site numbers used in Nevada locate ground-water data sites (wells or springs) by hydrographic areas and by the official rectangular subdivision of the public lands with reference to the Mt. Diablo base line and meridian. Nevada has been divided into 14 hydrographic regions or major basins and 256 individual hydrographic areas or valleys. The classification is used to compile information pertaining to water resources in Nevada. The local site number uses as many as 19 digits to locate the site by hydrographic area, township, range, section, and section subdivision.

The first segment of the local site number specifies the hydrographic area as defined by Rush (1968). The remainder of the number specifies the township north or south of the Mt. Diablo base line, the range east of the Mt. Diablo meridian, the section, and the subdivision of the section. Sections are divided into quadrants labeled counterclockwise from upper right as A, B, C, and D. Each quadrant is then similarly subdivided up to as many as three times, depending on the accuracy of available maps; thus each section of about 640 acres may be subdivided into tracts approximately 330 ft on a side containing about 2.5 acres. Lettered quadrants are read from left to right, with the largest subdivision on the left. Sites within the smallest subdivision used are numbered sequentially with 1 digit. As an example, a well in Fallon (Carson Desert, hydrographic area 101) located within the  $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$  section 6, Township 19 North, Range 28 East, would have the number 101 N19 E28 6CBAD1. A second well within the same 2.5-acre tract would be numbered 101 N19 E28 6CBAD2.

## WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004

Prior to January 1976, local site numbers in Nevada were published according to the following general format: 19/28-36aabc1. The first number was the township north of the base line (if the township was south of the base line, the first number was followed by an "S"). The second number was the range east of the meridian, the third number was the section, and the following letter or letters and number indicated the quarter sections and sequence as defined above.

Wells and springs in California are assigned numbers according to their location in the rectangular system for the subdivision of public land. For example, in the number 005S012E22P001M (fig. 1), the first four characters indicate the township (T. 5 S.), and the next four characters indicate the range (R. 12 E.); the two digits following the range indicate the section (sec. 22); and the letter following the section indicates the 40-acre subdivision of the section. Within each 40-acre subdivision, the wells are numbered serially, as indicated by the last three digits. The final letter indicates the baseline and meridian designation as follows: H, Humboldt; M, Mount Diablo; S, San Bernardino. This 15-digit number is called the Local Number or State Well Number.

## SPECIAL NETWORKS AND PROGRAMS

**Hydrologic Benchmark Network** is a network of 61 sites in small drainage basins in 39 States that was established in 1963 to provide consistent streamflow data representative of undeveloped watersheds nationwide, and from which data could be analyzed on a continuing basis for use in comparison and contrast with conditions observed in basins more obviously affected by human activities. At selected sites, water-quality information is being gathered on major ions and nutrients, primarily to assess the effects of acid deposition on stream chemistry. Additional information on the Hydrologic Benchmark Program may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/hbn/>.

**National Stream-Quality Accounting Network (NASQAN)** is a network of sites used to monitor the water quality of large rivers within the Nation's largest river basins. From 1995 through 1999, a network of approximately 40 stations was operated in the Mississippi, Columbia, Colorado, and Rio Grande River basins. For the period 2000 through 2004, sampling was reduced to a few index stations on the Colorado and Columbia Rivers so that a network of 5 stations could be implemented on the Yukon River. Samples are collected with sufficient frequency that the flux of a wide range of constituents can be estimated. The objective of NASQAN is to characterize the water quality of these large rivers by measuring concentration and mass transport of a wide range of dissolved and suspended constituents, including nutrients, major ions, dissolved and sediment-bound heavy metals, common pesticides, and inorganic and organic forms of carbon. This information will be used (1) to describe the long-term trends and changes in concentration and transport of these constituents; (2) to test findings of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program; (3) to characterize processes unique to large-river systems such as storage and re-mobilization of sediments and associated contaminants; and (4) to refine existing estimates of off-continent transport of water, sediment, and chemicals for assessing human effects on the world's oceans and for determining global cycles of carbon, nutrients, and other chemicals. Additional information about the NASQAN Program may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/nasqan/>.

**The National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network (NADP/NTN)** is a network of monitoring sites that provides continuous measurement and assessment of the chemical constituents in precipitation throughout the United States. As the lead Federal agency, the USGS works together with over 100 organizations to provide a long-term, spatial and temporal record of atmospheric deposition generated from this network of 250 precipitation-chemistry monitoring sites. The USGS supports 74 of these 250 sites. This long-term, nationally consistent monitoring program, coupled with ecosystem research, provides critical information toward a national scorecard to evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing and future regulations intended to reduce atmospheric emissions and subsequent impacts to the Nation's land and water resources. Reports and other information on the NADP/NTN Program, as well as data from the individual sites, may be accessed from <http://bqs.usgs.gov/acidrain/>.

## WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004

**The USGS National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program** is a long-term program with goals to describe the status and trends of water-quality conditions for a large, representative part of the Nation's ground- and surface-water resources; to provide an improved understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting these observed conditions and trends; and to provide information that supports development and evaluation of management, regulatory, and monitoring decisions by other agencies.

Assessment activities are being conducted in 42 study units (major watersheds and aquifer systems) that represent a wide range of environmental settings nationwide and that account for a large percentage of the Nation's water use. A wide array of chemical constituents is measured in ground water, surface water, streambed sediments, and fish tissues. The coordinated application of comparative hydrologic studies at a wide range of spatial and temporal scales will provide information for water-resources managers to use in making decisions and a foundation for aggregation and comparison of findings to address water-quality issues of regional and national interest.

Communication and coordination between USGS personnel and other local, State, and Federal interests are critical components of the NAWQA Program. Each study unit has a local liaison committee consisting of representatives from key Federal, State, and local water-resources agencies, Indian nations, and universities in the study unit. Liaison committees typically meet semiannually to discuss their information needs, monitoring plans and progress, desired information products, and opportunities to collaborate efforts among the agencies. Additional information about the NAWQA Program may be accessed from Z <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/>.

**The USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP)** is a long-term program with goals to provide framework streamflow data across the Nation. Included in the program are creation of a permanent Federally funded streamflow network, research on the nature of streamflow, regional assessments of streamflow data and databases, and upgrades in the streamflow information delivery systems. Additional information about NSIP may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/>.

**Carbonate Rock Study Area** consists of recording wells, intermittent and quarterly measurements at wells, spring and fall discharge measurements at springs, and bulk precipitation readings at high-elevation sites.

**Carson River Mercury Study** consists of streamflow sites where depth/width integrated water samples for total and dissolved mercury, total and dissolved methylmercury, and suspended sediment are collected for determination of loads into and out of Lake Lahontan.

**Clear Creek Monitoring Project** consists of sites where chemical analyses of water samples are collected in the Clear Creek watershed. Water samples were collected at four sites to characterize water quality in the basin. The project is in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Transportation and is being done to collect background data to evaluate the effectiveness of future erosion control efforts proposed in the basin.

**Cold Creek Monitoring Project** consists of ground-water quality and ground-water level data collected in the Cold Creek watershed as part of a cooperative study with El Dorado County Department of Transportation and California Tahoe Conservancy. The purpose of the study is to assess effects of urban runoff into a detention basin adjacent to Cold Creek.

**Dayton Valley** consists of water-level measurements at wells, and bulk precipitation readings at sites.

**Douglas County Network** consists of sites for miscellaneous streamflow measurements, wells for water-level measurements, and ground water water-quality sites where data are routinely collected, principally in Carson Valley, western Nevada. The data will be used to establish background information to determine if changes in water quantity or quality occurs.

## **WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**

**Dry Valley Study** is a two year water-resource investigation to estimate natural ground-water discharge and to characterize the quality of ground water.

**Colorado River Basin Study** consists of lake sites where water samples were taken and analyzed in cooperation with the U.S. National Park Service to determine gasoline-related organic compound concentrations in Lake Mead and Lake Mohave.

**Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program** is a network of surface-water sites where streamflow and water-quality data are routinely collected around Lake Tahoe and ground-water sites monitored for nutrients. The surface-water data will be used to provide a long-term database of streamflow and of sediment and nutrient loadings from major tributaries to Lake Tahoe.

**Lake Tahoe Basin Organics Study** in Lake Tahoe and other Lower Echo Lake (Nevada and California) consists of lake sites where water samples were taken and analyzed for MTBE and other gasoline components. The data will be used to determine the effectiveness of the prohibition of carbureted 2-stroke engines in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

**Las Vegas Valley Study** consists of water-level measurements at selected wells throughout the valley.

**Other Lakes in the Lake Tahoe Basin** is a two-year study to determine the nutrient concentrations in five lakes and associated outlet streams in the Lake Tahoe basin.

**Nevada Test Site and Adjacent Areas Monitoring Project** collects and compiles hydrogeologic data to aid in characterizing local and regional ground-water flow systems underlying the Nevada Test Site and vicinity. This work is done in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy as part of their Environmental Restoration and Hydrologic Resources Management Programs. Specific activities include the collection of water-level, water-use, evapotranspiration, and discharge data. Periodic and continuous water-level measurements are collected from wells and test holes at and adjacent to the Nevada Test Site. Measurements provide information defining short- and long-term water-level fluctuations. Water-use data are compiled for most water-supply wells at the Nevada Test Site. Continuous water-use data are collected at selected well sites. Evapotranspiration and discharge data are collected at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and Oasis Valley.

**Newlands Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Project** consists of wells for water-level measurements and ground-water-quality sites in Churchill County, Nevada where data are collected to monitor changes in water levels and water quality caused by changes in land use.

**Spanish Springs Project** consists of water quality data from lysimeters and ground-water wells. Data were collected as part of a cooperative study with Washoe County Department of Water Resources to determine the amount of nitrogen entering the ground water from septic tank systems in the Spanish Springs Valley.

**Waterfall Fire Project** consists of water-quality measurements made to monitor water chemistry and sediment concentrations associated with the Waterfall Forest Fire which occurred in July 2004. Information from these samples should help assess the impacts of vegetation loss on stream chemistry and sediment runoff.

**Walker River Basin Project** objectives are to develop (1) an improved water budget for Walker Lake and (2) the capability to predict how changes in irrigation practices in and below Mason Valley will affect flows in the lower Walker River so alternatives for supplementing flows can be evaluated. Walker Lake is a perennial, natural terminal lake that became at-risk because of upstream agricultural diversions. Between 1882 and 1994, upstream diversions caused Walker Lake to decline about 140 feet and the total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations to increase from 2,500 mg/L to 13,300 mg/L. The Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), a threatened species that is native to Walker Lake, has adapted to the high TDS of terminal basins. However, diversions have lowered lake levels and increased TDS to concentrations that threaten the survival of the LCT.

## **WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**

**Yucca Mountain Ground-Water Monitoring Project** includes periodic measurements made throughout the Yucca Mountain Area to support environmental and regulatory aspects of the Yucca Mountain Project. Discharge and water-level measurements are made at selected springs and wells. Data presented do not include data collected as part of the Site-Characterization Program nor continual records developed from pressure-sensor data. The data included have been reviewed according to quality-assurance requirements specific to the Yucca Mountain Project.

### **EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS**

#### **Data Collection and Computation**

The base data collected at gaging stations consist of records of stage and measurements of discharge of streams or canals, and stage, surface area, and volume of lakes or reservoirs. In addition, observations of factors affecting the stage-discharge relation or the stage-capacity relation, weather records, and other information are used to supplement base data in determining the daily flow or volume of water in storage. Records of stage are obtained from a water-stage recorder that is either downloaded electronically in the field to a laptop computer or similar device or is transmitted using telemetry such as GOES satellite, land-line or cellular-phone modems, or by radio transmission. Measurements of discharge are made with a current meter or acoustic Doppler current profiler, using the general methods adopted by the USGS. These methods are described in standard textbooks, USGS Water-Supply Paper 2175, and the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations of the United States Geological Survey (TWRI's), Book 3, Chapters A1 through A19 and Book 8, Chapters A2 and B2, which may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. The methods are consistent with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and generally follow the standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

For stream-gaging stations, discharge-rating tables for any stage are prepared from stage-discharge curves. If extensions to the rating curves are necessary to express discharge greater than measured, the extensions are made on the basis of indirect measurements of peak discharge (such as slope-area or contracted-opening measurements, or computation of flow over dams and weirs), step-backwater techniques, velocity-area studies, and logarithmic plotting. The daily mean discharge is computed from gage heights and rating tables, then the monthly and yearly mean discharges are computed from the daily values. If the stage-discharge relation is subject to change because of frequent or continual change in the physical features of the stream channel, the daily mean discharge is computed by the shifting-control method in which correction factors based on individual discharge measurements and notes by engineers and observers are used when applying the gage heights to the rating tables. If the stage-discharge relation for a station is temporarily changed by the presence of aquatic growth or debris on the controlling section, the daily mean discharge is computed by the shifting-control method.

The stage-discharge relation at some stream-gaging stations is affected by backwater from reservoirs, tributary streams, or other sources. Such an occurrence necessitates the use of the slope method in which the slope or fall in a reach of the stream is a factor in computing discharge. The slope or fall is obtained by means of an auxiliary gage at some distance from the base gage.

An index velocity is measured using ultrasonic or acoustic instruments at some stream-gaging stations and this index velocity is used to calculate an average velocity for the flow in the stream. This average velocity along with a stage-area relation is then used to calculate average discharge.

At some stations, stage-discharge relation is affected by changing stage. At these stations, the rate of change in stage is used as a factor in computing discharge.

At some stream-gaging stations in the northern United States, the stage-discharge relation is affected by ice in the winter; therefore, computation of the discharge in the usual manner is impossible. Discharge for periods of ice effect is computed on the basis of gage-height record and occasional winter-discharge measurements. Consideration is given to the available information on temperature and precipitation, notes

## **WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**

by gage observers and hydrologists, and comparable records of discharge from other stations in the same or nearby basins.

For a lake or reservoir station, capacity tables giving the volume or contents for any stage are prepared from stage-area relation curves defined by surveys. The application of the stage to the capacity table gives the contents, from which the daily, monthly, or yearly changes are computed.

If the stage-capacity curve is subject to changes because of deposition of sediment in the reservoir, periodic resurveys of the reservoir are necessary to define new stage-capacity curves. During the period between reservoir surveys, the computed contents may be increasingly in error due to the gradual accumulation of sediment.

For some stream-gaging stations, periods of time occur when no gage-height record is obtained or the recorded gage height is faulty and cannot be used to compute daily discharge or contents. Such a situation can happen when the recorder stops or otherwise fails to operate properly, the intakes are plugged, the float is frozen in the well, or for various other reasons. For such periods, the daily discharges are estimated on the basis of recorded range in stage, prior and subsequent records, discharge measurements, weather records, and comparison with records from other stations in the same or nearby basins. Likewise, lake or reservoir volumes may be estimated on the basis of operator's log, prior and subsequent records, inflow-outflow studies, and other information.

### **Data Presentation**

The records published for each continuous-record surface-water discharge station (stream-gaging station) consist of five parts: (1) the station manuscript or description; (2) the data table of daily mean values of discharge for the current water year with summary data; (3) a tabular statistical summary of monthly mean flow data for a designated period, by water year; (4) a summary statistics table that includes statistical data of annual, daily, and instantaneous flows as well as data pertaining to annual runoff, 7-day low-flow minimums, and flow duration; and (5) a hydrograph of discharge.

#### **Station Manuscript**

The manuscript provides, under various headings, descriptive information, such as station location; period of record; historical extremes outside the period of record; record accuracy; and other remarks pertinent to station operation and regulation. The following information, as appropriate, is provided with each continuous record of discharge or lake content. Comments follow that clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

**LOCATION.**—Location information is obtained from the most accurate maps available. The location of the gaging station with respect to the cultural and physical features in the vicinity and with respect to the reference place mentioned in the station name is given. River mileages, given for only a few stations, were determined by methods given in "River Mileage Measurement," Bulletin 14, Revision of October 1968, prepared by the Water Resources Council or were provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**DRAINAGE AREA.**—Drainage areas are measured using the most accurate maps available. Because the type of maps available varies from one drainage basin to another, the accuracy of drainage areas likewise varies. Drainage areas are updated as better maps become available.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**—This term indicates the time period for which records have been published for the station or for an equivalent station. An equivalent station is one that was in operation at a time that the present station was not and whose location was such that its flow reasonably can be considered equivalent to flow at the present station.



## **WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**

**REVISED RECORDS.**—If a critical error in published records is discovered, a revision is included in the first report published following discovery of the error.

**GAGE.**—The type of gage in current use, the datum of the current gage referred to a standard datum, and a condensed history of the types, locations, and datums of previous gages are given under this heading.

**REMARKS.**—All periods of estimated daily discharge either will be identified by date in this paragraph of the station description for water-discharge stations or flagged in the daily discharge table. (See section titled Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge.) Information is presented relative to the accuracy of the records, to special methods of computation, and to conditions that affect natural flow at the station. In addition, information may be presented pertaining to average discharge data for the period of record; to extremes data for the period of record and the current year; and, possibly, to other pertinent items. For reservoir stations, information is given on the dam forming the reservoir, the capacity, the outlet works and spillway, and the purpose and use of the reservoir.

**COOPERATION.**—Records provided by a cooperating organization or obtained for the USGS by a cooperating organization are identified here.

**EXTREMES OUTSIDE PERIOD OF RECORD.**—Information here documents major floods or unusually low flows that occurred outside the stated period of record. The information may or may not have been obtained by the USGS.

**REVISIONS.**—Records are revised if errors in published records are discovered. Appropriate updates are made in the USGS distributed data system, NWIS, and subsequently to its Web-based National data system, NWISWeb (<http://water.usgs.gov/nwis/nwis>). Users are encouraged to obtain all required data from NWIS or NWISWeb to ensure that they have the most recent data updates. Updates to NWISWeb are made on an annual basis.

Although rare, occasionally the records of a discontinued gaging station may need revision. Because no current or, possibly, future station manuscript would be published for these stations to document the revision in a REVISED RECORDS entry, users of data for these stations who obtained the record from previously published data reports may wish to contact the Water Science Center (address given on the back of the title page of this report) to determine if the published records were revised after the station was discontinued. If, however, the data for a discontinued station were obtained by computer retrieval, the data would be current. Any published revision of data is always accompanied by revision of the corresponding data in computer storage.

Manuscript information for lake or reservoir stations differs from that for stream stations in the nature of the REMARKS and in the inclusion of a stage-capacity table when daily volumes are given.

### **Peak Discharge Greater than Base Discharge**

Tables of peak discharge above base discharge are included for some stations where secondary instantaneous peak discharge data are used in flood-frequency studies of highway and bridge design, flood-control structures, and other flood-related projects. The base discharge value is selected so an average of three peaks a year will be reported. This base discharge value has a recurrence interval of approximately 1.1 years or a 91-percent chance of exceedence in any 1 year.

### **Data Table of Daily Mean Values**

The daily table of discharge records for stream-gaging stations gives mean discharge for each day of the water year. In the monthly summary for the table, the line headed TOTAL gives the sum of the daily figures for each month; the line headed MEAN gives the arithmetic average flow in cubic feet per second for the month; and the lines headed MAX and MIN give the maximum and minimum daily mean discharges,

## WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004

respectively, for each month. Discharge for the month is expressed in cubic feet per second per square mile (line headed CFSM); or in inches (line headed IN); or in acre-feet (line headed AC-FT). Values for cubic feet per second per square mile and runoff in inches or in acre-feet may be omitted if extensive regulation or diversion is in effect or if the drainage area includes large noncontributing areas. At some stations, monthly and (or) yearly observed discharges are adjusted for reservoir storage or diversion, or diversion data or reservoir volumes are given. These values are identified by a symbol and a corresponding footnote.

### Statistics of Monthly Mean Data

A tabular summary of the mean (line headed MEAN), maximum (MAX), and minimum (MIN) of monthly mean flows for each month for a designated period is provided below the mean values table. The water years of the first occurrence of the maximum and minimum monthly flows are provided immediately below those values. The designated period will be expressed as FOR WATER YEARS \_\_-\_\_, BY WATER YEAR (WY), and will list the first and last water years of the range of years selected from the PERIOD OF RECORD paragraph in the station manuscript. The designated period will consist of all of the station record within the specified water years, including complete months of record for partial water years, and may coincide with the period of record for the station. The water years for which the statistics are computed are consecutive, unless a break in the station record is indicated in the manuscript.

### Summary Statistics

A table titled SUMMARY STATISTICS follows the statistics of monthly mean data tabulation. This table consists of four columns with the first column containing the line headings of the statistics being reported. The table provides a statistical summary of yearly, daily, and instantaneous flows, not only for the current water year but also for the previous calendar year and for a designated period, as appropriate. The designated period selected, WATER YEARS \_\_-\_\_, will consist of all of the station records within the specified water years, including complete months of record for partial water years, and may coincide with the period of record for the station. The water years for which the statistics are computed are consecutive, unless a break in the station record is indicated in the manuscript. All of the calculations for the statistical characteristics designated ANNUAL (see line headings below), except for the ANNUAL 7-DAY MINIMUM statistic, are calculated for the designated period using complete water years. The other statistical characteristics may be calculated using partial water years.

The date or water year, as appropriate, of the first occurrence of each statistic reporting extreme values of discharge is provided adjacent to the statistic. Repeated occurrences may be noted in the REMARKS paragraph of the manuscript or in footnotes. Because the designated period may not be the same as the station period of record published in the manuscript, occasionally the dates of occurrence listed for the daily and instantaneous extremes in the designated-period column may not be within the selected water years listed in the heading. When the dates of occurrence do not fall within the selected water years listed in the heading, it will be noted in the REMARKS paragraph or in footnotes. Selected streamflow duration-curve statistics and runoff data also are given. Runoff data may be omitted if extensive regulation or diversion of flow is in effect in the drainage basin.

The following summary statistics data are provided with each continuous record of discharge. Comments that follow clarify information presented under the various line headings of the SUMMARY STATISTICS table.

**ANNUAL TOTAL.**—The sum of the daily mean values of discharge for the year.

**ANNUAL MEAN.**—The arithmetic mean for the individual daily mean discharges for the year noted or for the designated period.

**HIGHEST ANNUAL MEAN.**—The maximum annual mean discharge occurring for the designated period.

## **WATER RESOURCES DATA - NEVADA, 2004**

**LOWEST ANNUAL MEAN.**—The minimum annual mean discharge occurring for the designated period.

**HIGHEST DAILY MEAN.**—The maximum daily mean discharge for the year or for the designated period.

**LOWEST DAILY MEAN.**—The minimum daily mean discharge for the year or for the designated period.

**ANNUAL 7-DAY MINIMUM.**—The lowest mean discharge for 7 consecutive days for a calendar year or a water year. Note that most low-flow frequency analyses of annual 7-day minimum flows use a climatic year (April 1-March 31). The date shown in the summary statistics table is the initial date of the 7-day period. This value should not be confused with the 7-day 10-year low-flow statistic.

**MAXIMUM PEAK FLOW.**—The maximum instantaneous peak discharge occurring for the water year or designated period. Occasionally the maximum flow for a year may occur at midnight at the beginning or end of the year, on a recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. In this case, the maximum peak flow is given in the table and the maximum flow may be reported in a footnote or in the REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript.

**MAXIMUM PEAK STAGE.**—The maximum instantaneous peak stage occurring for the water year or designated period. Occasionally the maximum stage for a year may occur at midnight at the beginning or end of the year, on a recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. In this case, the maximum peak stage is given in the table and the maximum stage may be reported in the REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript or in a footnote. If the dates of occurrence of the maximum peak stage and maximum peak flow are different, the REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript or a footnote may be used to provide further information.

**INSTANTANEOUS LOW FLOW.**—The minimum instantaneous discharge occurring for the water year or for the designated period.

**ANNUAL RUNOFF.**—Indicates the total quantity of water in runoff for a drainage area for the year. Data reports may use any of the following units of measurement in presenting annual runoff data:

Acre-foot (AC-FT) is the quantity of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and is equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet or about 326,000 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters.

Cubic feet per square mile (CFSM) is the average number of cubic feet of water flowing per second from each square mile of area drained, assuming the runoff is distributed uniformly in time and area.

Inches (INCHES) indicate the depth to which the drainage area would be covered if all of the runoff for a given time period were uniformly distributed on it.

**10 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**—The discharge that has been exceeded 10 percent of the time for the designated period.

**50 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**—The discharge that has been exceeded 50 percent of the time for the designated period.

**90 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**—The discharge that has been exceeded 90 percent of the time for the designated period.

Data collected at partial-record stations follow the information for continuous-record sites. Data for partial-record discharge stations are presented in two tables. The first table lists annual maximum stage and

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discharge at crest-stage stations, and the second table lists discharge measurements at low-flow partial-record stations. The tables of partial-record stations are followed by a listing of discharge measurements made at sites other than continuous-record or partial-record stations. These measurements are often made in times of drought or flood to give better areal coverage to those events. Those measurements and others collected for a special reason are called measurements at miscellaneous sites.

### **Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge**

Estimated daily-discharge values published in the water-discharge tables of annual State data reports are identified. This identification is shown either by flagging individual daily values with the letter "e" and noting in a table footnote, "e—Estimated," or by listing the dates of the estimated record in the REMARKS paragraph of the station description.

### **Accuracy of Field Data and Computed Results**

The accuracy of streamflow data depends primarily on (1) the stability of the stage-discharge relation or, if the control is unstable, the frequency of discharge measurements, and (2) the accuracy of observations of stage, measurements of discharge, and interpretations of records.

The degree of accuracy of the records is stated in the REMARKS in the station description. "Excellent" indicates that about 95 percent of the daily discharges are within 5 percent of the true value; "good" within 10 percent; and "fair," within 15 percent. "Poor" indicates that daily discharges have less than "fair" accuracy. Different accuracies may be attributed to different parts of a given record.

Values of daily mean discharge in this report are shown to the nearest hundredth of a cubic foot per second for discharges of less than 1 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; to the nearest tenths between 1.0 and 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; to whole numbers between 10 and 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; and to 3 significant figures above 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. The number of significant figures used is based solely on the magnitude of the discharge value. The same rounding rules apply to discharge values listed for partial-record stations.

Discharge at many stations, as indicated by the monthly mean, may not reflect natural runoff due to the effects of diversion, consumption, regulation by storage, increase or decrease in evaporation due to artificial causes, or to other factors. For such stations, values of cubic feet per second per square mile and of runoff in inches are not published unless satisfactory adjustments can be made for diversions, for changes in contents of reservoirs, or for other changes incident to use and control. Evaporation from a reservoir is not included in the adjustments for changes in reservoir contents, unless it is so stated. Even at those stations where adjustments are made, large errors in computed runoff may occur if adjustments or losses are large in comparison with the observed discharge.

### **Other Data Records Available**

Information of a more detailed nature than that published for most of the stream-gaging stations such as discharge measurements, gage-height records, and rating tables is available from the Water Science Center. Also, most stream-gaging station records are available in computer-usable form and many statistical analyses have been made.

Information on the availability of unpublished data or statistical analyses may be obtained from the Water Science Center (see address that is shown on the back of the title page of this report).

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**EXPLANATION OF PRECIPITATION RECORDS**

**Data Collection and Computation**

Rainfall data generally are collected using electronic data loggers that measure the rainfall in 0.01-inch increments every 15 minutes using either a tipping-bucket rain gage or a collection well gage. Twenty-four hour rainfall totals are tabulated and presented. A 24-hour period extends from just past midnight of the previous day to midnight of the current day. Snowfall-affected data can result during cold weather when snow fills the rain-gage funnel and then melts as temperatures rise. Snowfall-affected data are subject to errors. Missing values are indicated by this symbol "---" in the table.

**Data Presentation**

Precipitation records collected at surface-water gaging stations are identified with the same station number and name as the stream-gaging station. Where a surface-water daily-record station is not available, the precipitation record is published with its own name and latitude-longitude identification number.

Information pertinent to the history of a precipitation station is provided in descriptive headings preceding the tabular data. These descriptive headings give details regarding location, period of record, and general remarks.

The following information is provided with each precipitation station. Comments that follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

**LOCATION.**—See Data Presentation in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**—See Data Presentation in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).

**INSTRUMENTATION.**—Information on the type of rainfall collection system is given.

**REMARKS.**—Remarks provide added information pertinent to the collection, analysis, or computation of records.

**EXPLANATION OF WATER-QUALITY RECORDS**

**Collection and Examination of Data**

Surface-water samples for analysis usually are collected at or near stream-gaging stations. The quality-of-water records are given immediately following the discharge records at these stations.

The descriptive heading for water-quality records gives the period of record for all water-quality data; the period of daily record for parameters that are measured on a daily basis (specific conductance, water temperature, sediment discharge, and so forth); extremes for the current year; and general remarks.

For ground-water records, no descriptive statements are given; however, the well number, depth of well, sampling date, or other pertinent data are given in the table containing the chemical analyses of the ground water.

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### Water Analysis

Most of the methods used for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRIs, which may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>.

One sample can define adequately the water quality at a given time if the mixture of solutes throughout the stream cross-section is homogeneous. However, the concentration of solutes at different locations in the cross section may vary widely with different rates of water discharge, depending on the source of material and the turbulence and mixing of the stream. Some streams must be sampled at several verticals to obtain a representative sample needed for an accurate mean concentration and for use in calculating load.

Chemical-quality data published in this report are considered to be the most representative values available for the stations listed. The values reported represent water-quality conditions at the time of sampling as much as possible, consistent with available sampling techniques and methods of analysis. In the rare case where an apparent inconsistency exists between a reported pH value and the relative abundance of carbon dioxide species (carbonate and bicarbonate), the inconsistency is the result of a slight uptake of carbon dioxide from the air by the sample between measurement of pH in the field and determination of carbonate and bicarbonate in the laboratory.

For chemical-quality stations equipped with digital monitors, the records consist of daily maximum and minimum values (and sometimes mean or median values) for each constituent measured, and are based on 15-minute or 1-hour intervals of recorded data beginning at 0000 hours and ending at 2400 hours for the day of record.

### SURFACE-WATER-QUALITY RECORDS

Records of surface-water quality ordinarily are obtained at or near stream-gaging stations because discharge data are useful in the interpretation of surface-water quality. Records of surface-water quality in this report involve a variety of types of data and measurement frequencies.

#### Classification of Records

Water-quality data for surface-water sites are grouped into one of three classifications. A *continuous-record station* is a site where data are collected on a regularly scheduled basis. Frequency may be one or more times daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. A *partial-record station* is a site where limited water-quality data are collected systematically over a period of years. Frequency of sampling is usually less than quarterly. A *miscellaneous sampling site* is a location other than a continuous- or partial-record station, where samples are collected to give better areal coverage to define water-quality conditions in the river basin.

A careful distinction needs to be made between *continuous records* as used in this report and *continuous recordings* that refer to a continuous graph or a series of discrete values recorded at short intervals. Some records of water quality, such as temperature and specific conductance, may be obtained through continuous recordings; however, because of costs, most data are obtained only monthly or less frequently.

#### Accuracy of the Records

One of four accuracy classifications is applied for measured physical properties at continuous-record stations on a scale ranging from poor to excellent. The accuracy rating is based on data values recorded before

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any shifts or corrections are made. Additional consideration also is given to the amount of publishable record and to the amount of data that have been corrected or shifted.

Rating classifications for continuous water-quality records

[≤, less than or equal to; ±, plus or minus value shown; °C, degree Celsius; >, greater than; %, percent; mg/L, milligram per liter; pH unit, standard pH unit]

Measured physical property	Rating			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Water temperature	≤ ±0.2 °C	> ±0.2 to 0.5 °C	> ±0.5 to 0.8 °C	> ±0.8 °C
Specific conductance	≤ ±3%	> ±3 to 10%	> ±10 to 15%	> ±15%
Dissolved oxygen	≤ ±0.3 mg/L	> ±0.3 to 0.5 mg/L	> ±0.5 to 0.8 mg/L	> ±0.8 mg/L
pH	≤ ±0.2 unit	> ±0.2 to 0.5 unit	> ±0.5 to 0.8 unit	> ±0.8 unit
Turbidity	≤ ±5%	> ±5 to 10%	> ±10 to 15%	> ±15%

## Arrangement of Records

Water-quality records collected at a surface-water daily record station are published immediately following that record, regardless of the frequency of sample collection. Station number and name are the same for both records. Where a surface-water daily record station is not available or where the water quality differs significantly from that at the nearby surface-water station, the continuing water-quality record is published with its own station number and name in the regular downstream-order sequence. Water-quality data for partial-record stations and for miscellaneous sampling sites appear in separate tables following the table of discharge measurements at miscellaneous sites.

## On-Site Measurements and Sample Collection

In obtaining water-quality data, a major concern is assuring that the data obtained represent the naturally occurring quality of the water. To ensure this, certain measurements, such as water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen, must be made on site when the samples are taken. To assure that measurements made in the laboratory also represent the naturally occurring water, carefully prescribed procedures must be followed in collecting the samples, in treating the samples to prevent changes in quality pending analysis, and in shipping the samples to the laboratory. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRI's Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapters A1, A3, and A4; and Book 9, Chapters A1-A9. Most of the methods used for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRI's, which may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. Also, detailed information on collecting, treating, and shipping samples can be obtained from the USGS Water Science Center (see address that is shown on the back of title page in this report).

## Water Temperature

Water temperatures are measured at most of the water-quality stations. In addition, water temperatures are taken at the time of discharge measurements for water-discharge stations. For stations where water temperatures are taken manually once or twice daily, the water temperatures are taken at about the same time each day. Large streams have a small diurnal temperature change; shallow streams may have a daily range of several degrees and may follow closely the changes in air temperature. Some streams may be affected by waste-heat discharges.

At stations where recording instruments are used, either mean temperatures or maximum and minimum temperatures for each day are published. Water temperatures measured at the time of water-discharge measurements are on file in the Water Science Center.

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### Sediment

Suspended-sediment concentrations are determined from samples collected by using depth-integrating samplers. Samples usually are obtained at several verticals in the cross section, or a single sample may be obtained at a fixed point and a coefficient applied to determine the mean concentration in the cross section.

During periods of rapidly changing flow or rapidly changing concentration, samples may be collected more frequently (twice daily or, in some instances, hourly). The published sediment discharges for days of rapidly changing flow or concentration were computed by the subdivided-day method (time-discharge weighted average). Therefore, for those days when the published sediment discharge value differs from the value computed as the product of discharge times mean concentration times 0.0027, the reader can assume that the sediment discharge for that day was computed by the subdivided-day method. For periods when no samples were collected, daily discharges of suspended sediment were estimated on the basis of water discharge, sediment concentrations observed immediately before and after the periods, and suspended-sediment loads for other periods of similar discharge.

At other stations, suspended-sediment samples are collected periodically at many verticals in the stream cross section. Although data collected periodically may represent conditions only at the time of observation, such data are useful in establishing seasonal relations between quality and streamflow and in predicting long-term sediment-discharge characteristics of the stream.

In addition to the records of suspended-sediment discharge, records of the periodic measurements of the particle-size distribution of the suspended sediment and bed material are included for some stations.

### Laboratory Measurements

Samples for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and indicator bacteria are analyzed locally. All other samples are analyzed in the USGS laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado, unless otherwise noted. Methods used in analyzing sediment samples and computing sediment records are given in TWRI, Book 5, Chapter C1. Methods used by the USGS laboratories are given in the TWRI, Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapter C2; and Book 5, Chapters A1, A3, and A4. The TWRI publications may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. These methods are consistent with ASTM standards and generally follow ISO standards.

### Data Presentation

For continuing-record stations, information pertinent to the history of station operation is provided in descriptive headings preceding the tabular data. These descriptive headings give details regarding location, drainage area, period of record, type of data available, instrumentation, general remarks, cooperation, and extremes for parameters currently measured daily. Tables of chemical, physical, biological, radiochemical data, and so forth, obtained at a frequency less than daily are presented first. Tables of "daily values" of specific conductance, pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and suspended sediment then follow in sequence.

In the descriptive headings, if the location is identical to that of the discharge gaging station, neither the LOCATION nor the DRAINAGE AREA statements are repeated. The following information is provided with each continuous-record station. Comments that follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

LOCATION.—See Data Presentation information in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).

DRAINAGE AREA.—See Data Presentation information in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).



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**PERIOD OF RECORD.**—This indicates the time periods for which published water-quality records for the station are available. The periods are shown separately for records of parameters measured daily or continuously and those measured less than daily. For those measured daily or continuously, periods of record are given for the parameters individually.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**—Information on instrumentation is given only if a water-quality monitor temperature record, sediment pumping sampler, or other sampling device is in operation at a station.

**REMARKS.**—Remarks provide added information pertinent to the collection, analysis, or computation of the records.

**COOPERATION.**—Records provided by a cooperating organization or obtained for the USGS by a cooperating organization are identified here.

**EXTREMES.**—Maximums and minimums are given only for parameters measured daily or more frequently. For parameters measured weekly or less frequently, true maximums or minimums may not have been obtained. Extremes, when given, are provided for both the period of record and for the current water year.

**REVISIONS.**—Records are revised if errors in published water-quality records are discovered. Appropriate updates are made in the USGS distributed data system, NWIS, and subsequently to its Web-based National data system, NWISWeb (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>). Users of USGS water-quality data are encouraged to obtain all required data from NWIS or NWISWeb to ensure that they have the most recent updates. Updates to the NWISWeb are made on an annual basis.

The surface-water-quality records for partial-record stations and miscellaneous sampling sites are published in separate tables following the table of discharge measurements at miscellaneous sites. No descriptive statements are given for these records. Each station is published with its own station number and name in the regular downstream-order sequence.

### Remark Codes

The following remark codes may appear with the water-quality data in this section:

Printed Output	Remark
E	Value is estimated.
>	Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown.
<	Actual value is known to be less than the value shown.
M	Presence of material verified, but not quantified.
N	Presumptive evidence of presence of material.
U	Material specifically analyzed for, but not detected.
A	Value is an average.
V	Analyte was detected in both the environmental sample and the associated blanks.
S	Most probable value.

### Water-Quality Control Data

The USGS National Water Quality Laboratory collects quality-control data on a continuing basis to evaluate selected analytical methods to determine long-term method detection levels (LT-MDLs) and

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laboratory reporting levels (LRLs). These values are re-evaluated each year on the basis of the most recent quality-control data and, consequently, may change from year to year.

This reporting procedure limits the occurrence of false positive error. Falsely reporting a concentration greater than the LT-MDL for a sample in which the analyte is not present is 1 percent or less. Application of the LRL limits the occurrence of false negative error. The chance of falsely reporting a non-detection for a sample in which the analyte is present at a concentration equal to or greater than the LRL is 1 percent or less.

Accordingly, concentrations are reported as less than LRL for samples in which the analyte was either not detected or did not pass identification. Analytes detected at concentrations between the LT-MDL and the LRL and that pass identification criteria are estimated. Estimated concentrations will be noted with a remark code of "E." These data should be used with the understanding that their uncertainty is greater than that of data reported without the E remark code.

Data generated from quality-control (QC) samples are a requisite for evaluating the quality of the sampling and processing techniques as well as data from the actual samples themselves. Without QC data, environmental sample data cannot be adequately interpreted because the errors associated with the sample data are unknown. The various types of QC samples collected by this Water Science Center are described in the following section. Procedures have been established for the storage of water-quality-control data within the USGS. These procedures allow for storage of all derived QC data and are identified so that they can be related to corresponding environmental samples. These data are not presented in this report but are available from the Water Science Center.

### Blank Samples

Blank samples are collected and analyzed to ensure that environmental samples have not been contaminated in the overall data-collection process. The blank solution used to develop specific types of blank samples is a solution that is free of the analytes of interest. Any measured value signal in a blank sample for an analyte (a specific component measured in a chemical analysis) that was absent in the blank solution is believed to be due to contamination. Many types of blank samples are possible; each is designed to segregate a different part of the overall data-collection process. The types of blank samples collected in this Water Science Center are:

**Field blank**—A blank solution that is subjected to all aspects of sample collection, field processing preservation, transportation, and laboratory handling as an environmental sample.

**Trip blank**—A blank solution that is put in the same type of bottle used for an environmental sample and kept with the set of sample bottles before and after sample collection.

**Equipment blank**—A blank solution that is processed through all equipment used for collecting and processing an environmental sample (similar to a field blank but normally done in the more controlled conditions of the office).

**Sampler blank**—A blank solution that is poured or pumped through the same field sampler used for collecting an environmental sample.

**Filter blank**—A blank solution that is filtered in the same manner and through the same filter apparatus used for an environmental sample.

**Splitter blank**—A blank solution that is mixed and separated using a field splitter in the same manner and through the same apparatus used for an environmental sample.

**Preservation blank**—A blank solution that is treated with the sampler preservatives used for an environmental sample.

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### **Reference Samples**

Reference material is a solution or material prepared by a laboratory. The reference material composition is certified for one or more properties so that it can be used to assess a measurement method. Samples of reference material are submitted for analysis to ensure that an analytical method is accurate for the known properties of the reference material. Generally, the selected reference material properties are similar to the environmental sample properties.

### **Replicate Samples**

Replicate samples are a set of environmental samples collected in a manner such that the samples are thought to be essentially identical in composition. Replicate is the general case for which a duplicate is the special case consisting of two samples. Replicate samples are collected and analyzed to establish the amount of variability in the data contributed by some part of the collection and analytical process. Many types of replicate samples are possible, each of which may yield slightly different results in a dynamic hydrologic setting, such as a flowing stream. The types of replicate samples collected in this Water Science Center are:

**Concurrent samples**—A type of replicate sample in which the samples are collected simultaneously with two or more samplers or by using one sampler and alternating the collection of samples into two or more compositing containers.

**Sequential samples**—A type of replicate sample in which the samples are collected one after the other, typically over a short time.

**Split sample**—A type of replicate sample in which a sample is split into subsamples, each subsample contemporaneous in time and space.

### **Spike Samples**

Spike samples are samples to which known quantities of a solution with one or more well-established analyte concentrations have been added. These samples are analyzed to determine the extent of matrix interference or degradation on the analyte concentration during sample processing and analysis.

## **EXPLANATION OF GROUND-WATER-LEVEL RECORDS**

Generally, only ground-water-level data from selected wells with continuous recorders from a basic network of observation wells are published in this report. This basic network contains observation wells located so that the most significant data are obtained from the fewest wells in the most important aquifers.

### **Site Identification Numbers**

Each well is identified by means of (1) a 15-digit number that is based on latitude and longitude and (2) a local number that is produced for local needs.

### **Data Collection and Computation**

Measurements are made in many types of wells, under varying conditions of access and at different temperatures; hence, neither the method of measurement nor the equipment can be standardized. At each observation well, however, the equipment and techniques used are those that will ensure that measurements at each well are consistent.

Most methods for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRIs referred to in the On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In

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addition, TWRI Book 1, Chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRI Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapters A1, A3, and A4; and Book 9, Chapters A1 through A9. The TWRI publications may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. The values in this report represent water-quality conditions at the time of sampling, as much as possible, and that are consistent with available sampling techniques and methods of analysis. These methods are consistent with ASTM standards and generally follow ISO standards. Trained personnel collected all samples. The wells sampled were pumped long enough to ensure that the water collected came directly from the aquifer and had not stood for a long time in the well casing where it would have been exposed to the atmosphere and to the material, possibly metal, comprising the casings.

Water-level measurements in this report are given in feet with reference to land-surface datum (lsd). Land-surface datum is a datum plane that is approximately at land surface at each well. If known, the elevation of the land-surface datum above sea level is given in the well description. The height of the measuring point (MP) above or below land-surface datum is given in each well description. Water levels in wells equipped with recording gages are reported for every fifth day and the end of each month (EOM).

Water levels are reported to as many significant figures as can be justified by the local conditions. For example, in a measurement of a depth of water of several hundred feet, the error in determining the absolute value of the total depth to water may be a few tenths of a foot, whereas the error in determining the net change of water level between successive measurements may be only a hundredth or a few hundredths of a foot. For lesser depths to water the accuracy is greater. Accordingly, most measurements are reported to a hundredth of a foot, but some are given only to a tenth of a foot or a larger unit.

### Data Presentation

Water-level data are presented in alphabetical order by county. The primary identification number for a given well is the 15-digit site identification number that appears in the upper left corner of the table. The secondary identification number is the local or county well number.

Each well record consists of three parts: the well description, the data table of water levels observed during the water year, and, for most wells, a hydrograph following the data table. Well descriptions are presented in the headings preceding the tabular data.

The following comments clarify information presented in these various headings.

**LOCATION.**—This paragraph follows the well-identification number and reports the hydrologic-unit number and a geographic point of reference. Latitudes and longitudes used in this report are reported as North American Datum of 1927 unless otherwise specified.

**AQUIFER.**—This entry designates by name and geologic age the aquifer that the well taps.

**WELL CHARACTERISTICS.**—This entry describes the well in terms of depth, casing diameter and depth or screened interval, method of construction, use, and changes since construction.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**—This paragraph provides information on both the frequency of measurement and the collection method used, allowing the user to better evaluate the reported water-level extremes by knowing whether they are based on continuous, monthly, or some other frequency of measurement.

**DATUM.**—This entry describes both the measuring point and the land-surface elevation at the well. The altitude of the land-surface datum is described in feet above the altitude datum; it is reported with a precision depending on the method of determination. The measuring point is described physically (such as top of casing, top of instrument shelf, and so forth), and in relation to land surface (such as 1.3 ft above land-surface datum). The elevation of the land-surface datum is described in feet above National Geodetic

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Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29); it is reported with a precision depending on the method of determination.

**REMARKS.**—This entry describes factors that may influence the water level in a well or the measurement of the water level, when various methods of measurement were begun, and the network (climatic, terrane, local, or areal effects) or the special project to which the well belongs.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**—This entry indicates the time period for which records are published for the well, the month and year at the start of publication of water-level records by the USGS, and the words “to current year” if the records are to be continued into the following year. Time periods for which water-level records are available, but are not published by the USGS, may be noted.

**EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.**—This entry contains the highest and lowest instantaneously recorded or measured water levels of the period of published record, with respect to land-surface datum or sea level, and the dates of occurrence.

### **Water-Level Tables**

A table of water levels follows the well description for each well. Water-level measurements in this report are given in feet with reference to either sea level or land-surface datum (lsd). Missing records are indicated by dashes in place of the water-level value.

For wells not equipped with recorders, water-level measurements were obtained periodically by steel or electric tape. Tables of periodic water-level measurements in these wells show the date of measurement and the measured water-level value.

### **Hydrographs**

Hydrographs are a graphic display of water-level fluctuations over a period of time. In this report, current water year and, when appropriate, period-of-record hydrographs are shown. Hydrographs that display periodic water-level measurements show points that may be connected with a dashed line from one measurement to the next. Hydrographs that display recorder data show a solid line representing the mean water level recorded for each day. Missing data are indicated by a blank space or break in a hydrograph. Missing data may occur as a result of recorder malfunctions, battery failures, or mechanical problems related to the response of the recorder's float mechanism to water-level fluctuations in a well.

## **GROUND-WATER-QUALITY DATA**

### **Data Collection and Computation**

The ground-water-quality data in this report were obtained as a part of special studies in specific areas. Consequently, a number of chemical analyses are presented for some wells within a county but not for others. As a result, the records for this year, by themselves, do not provide a balanced view of ground-water quality Statewide.

Most methods for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRI, which may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRI, Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 5, Chapters A1, A3, and A4; and Book 9, Chapters A1-A6. Also, detailed information on collecting, treating, and shipping samples may be obtained from the USGS Water Science Center (see address shown on back of title page in this report).

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### **Laboratory Measurements**

Analysis for sulfide and measurement of alkalinity, pH, water temperature, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen are performed on site. All other sample analyses are performed at the USGS laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado, unless otherwise noted. Methods used by the USGS laboratory are given in TWRI, Book 1, Chapter D2 and Book 5, Chapters A1, A3, and A4, which may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>.

### **ACCESS TO USGS WATER DATA**

The USGS provides near real-time stage and discharge data for many of the gaging stations equipped with the necessary telemetry and historic daily mean and peak-flow discharge data for most current or discontinued gaging stations through the World Wide Web (WWW). These data may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov>.

Water-quality data and ground-water data also are available through the WWW. In addition, data can be provided in various machine-readable formats on various media. Information about the availability of specific types of data or products, and user charges, can be obtained locally from each Water Discipline Water Science Center (See address that is shown on the back of the title page of this report.)

### **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Specialized technical terms related to streamflow, water-quality, and other hydrologic data, as used in this report, may be accessed from [http://water.usgs.gov/ADR\\_Defs\\_2004.pdf](http://water.usgs.gov/ADR_Defs_2004.pdf). Terms such as algae, water level, and precipitation are used in their common everyday meanings, definitions of which are given in standard dictionaries. Not all terms defined in this alphabetical list apply to every State. See also table for converting English units to International System (SI) Units. Other glossaries that also define water-related terms are accessible from <http://water.usgs.gov/glossaries.html>.



## Nevada Water Science Center

# Water-Resources Data

[Introduction](#)[Surface Water](#)[Ground Water](#)[Precipitation](#)[Springs](#)[H](#)

This website is an online version of the latest in a series of annual reports that document hydrologic data gathered from the U.S. Geological Survey's surface-water and ground-water data-collection networks in each State, Puerto Rico, and the Trust Territories. These records of streams, canals, drains and springs, lakes and reservoirs, and observation wells provide the hydrologic information needed by Federal, State, and local agencies and the private sector for developing and managing our Nation's land and water resources.

This website is the culmination of a concerted effort by personnel of the U.S. Geological Survey who collected, analyzed, verified, and organized the data and who typed, edited, and assembled the report. The Nevada Data Management Unit had primary responsibility for assuring that the information contained herein is accurate, complete, and adheres to Geological Survey policy and established guidelines.

Surface-water, ground-water, water-quality, precipitation, and spring data are available from this website for water year 2004.



Virgin



Lamoil



Upper Tru



Several files on this site require Adobe Acrobat Reader to view.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is available free from the Adobe website: [Download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

### For more information about water-data studies in Nevada, please contact:

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